

11/23/99
JC712 U.S. PTO

A

PATENT

JC568 U.S. PTO
09/447524
11/23/99

Preliminary classification:
Proposed Class:
Subclass:

NOTE: All applicants are requested to include a preliminary classification on newly filed patent applications. The preliminary classification, preferable class and subclass designations, should be identified in the upper right-hand corner of the letter of transmittal accompanying the application papers, for example >Proposed Class 2, subclass 129, M.P.E.P. § 601, 7th ed.

Box: Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Practitioner Docket No. 30288-US

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
Inventor(s):

KEVIN TREIDER and JULIE BORGES

WARNING: 37 CFR 1.41(a) (1) points out:
"(a) A patent is applied for in the name or names of the actual inventor or inventors.

"(1) The inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63, except as provided for in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(d). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is that inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1.53(b) unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(l) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors."

For (title):

ELECTRONIC FACTORING

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10*
(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)
(Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, **November 23, 1999**, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label No. **EL368197729US** addressed to the: **Box: PATENT APPLICATIONS, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

Stacy E. Jenkins, Legal Assistant

Stacy E. Jenkins
(Signature of person mailing paper)

NOTE: Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 CFR 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

NOTE: *Each paper or fee referred to as enclosed herein must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 CFR 1.10(b).*

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail Mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition," Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439 at 56,442.

1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n) (check one applicable item below):

Original (Nonprovisional)
 Design
 Plant

WARNING: *Do not use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4) unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.*

WARNING: *Do not use this transmittal for the filing of a provisional application.*

NOTE: *If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION IS CLAIMED and a NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THE FILING OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION*

Divisional
 Continuation
 Continuation-in-part (C-I-P)

2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 USC 119(e), 120 or 121)

Note: *A nonprovisional application may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior filed copending nonprovisional applications or copending international applications designating the United States of America. In order for a nonprovisional application to claim the benefit of a prior filed copending nonprovisional application or copending international application designating the United States of America, each prior application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later filed nonprovisional application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later filed nonprovisional application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. Each prior application must also be:*

- (i) *An international application entitled to a filing date in accordance with PCT Article 11 and designating the United States of America; or*
- (ii) *Complete as set forth in § 1.51(b); or*
- (iii) *Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) or § 1.53(d) and include the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16; or*
- (iv) *entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) and have paid therein the processing and retention fee set forth in § 1.21(l) within the same period set forth in § 1.53(f).*

37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1).

NOTE: *If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., or benefit of a prior provisional application is claimed, then check the following item and complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.*

WARNING: *If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 USC 120, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 USC 120, 121 or 365(c), (35 USC 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application to which priority is claimed under 35 USC 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a C-I-P application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20, 195, at 20,205*

WARNING: When the last day of pendency of a provisional application falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, any nonprovisional application claiming benefit of the provisional application must be filed prior to the Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3)

The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) and enclosed are ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

3. Papers Enclosed

A. Required For Filing Date Under 37 CFR 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 CFR 1.153 (Design) Application

23 Pages of specification
 6 Pages of claims
 28 Sheets of Drawing

WARNING: DO NOT submit original drawings. A high quality copy of the drawings should be supplied when filing a patent application. The drawings that are submitted to the Office must be on strong, white, smooth, and non-shiny paper and meet the standards according to § 1.84. If corrections to the drawings are necessary, they should be made to the original drawing and a high-quality copy of the corrected original drawing then submitted to the Office. Only one copy is required or desired. For comments on proposed new 37 CFR 1.84. Notice of March 9, 1988 (1990 O.G. 57-62).

NOTE: "Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the application number or title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number, and the name and phone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application. This information should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawing a minimum distance of 1.5 cm. (5/8") down from the top of the page." 37 CFR 1.84(c).

(complete the following, if applicable)

The enclosed drawing(s) are photograph(s), and there is also attached a "PETITION TO ACCEPT PHOTOGRAPH(S) AS DRAWINGS(S)". 37 CFR 1.84(b).

formal
 informal

B. Other Papers Enclosed

7 Pages of declaration and power
 1 Pages of Abstract
 Other

4. Additional papers enclosed

Amendment to claims

Cancel in this application claims _____ before calculating the filing fee.
(at least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)

Add the claims shown on the attached amendment. (claims added have been numbered consecutively following the highest numbered original claim.)

Preliminary Amendment

Information Disclosure Statement (37 CFR 1.98)

Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08/B)

Citations

Declaration of Biological Deposit

Submission of "Sequence Listing," computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.

Authorization of Attorney(s) to Accept and Follow Instructions from Representative
Special Comments

Other Associate Power of Attorney
 Petition to Make Special

5. Declaration or oath (including power of attorney)

NOTE: *A newly executed declaration is not required in a continuation or divisional application provided that the prior nonprovisional application contained a declaration as required, the application being filed is by all or fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, there is no new matter in the application being filed, and a copy of the executed declaration filed in the prior application (showing the signature or an indication thereon that it was signed) is submitted. The copy must be accompanied by a statement requesting deletion of the names of person(s) who are not inventors of the application being filed. If the declaration in the prior application was filed under § 1.47, then a copy of that declaration must be filed accompanied by a copy of the decision granting § 1.47 status or, if a nonsigning person under § 1.47 has subsequently joined in a prior application, then a copy of the subsequently executed declaration must be filed. See 37 C.F.R. § 163(d)(1)-(3).*

Note: *A declaration filed to complete an application must be executed, identify the specification to which it is directed, identify each inventor by full name including family name and at least one given name, without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and the residence, post office address and country or citizenship of each inventor, and state whether the inventor is a sole or joint inventor. 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(a)(1)-(4).*

Note: *"The inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.62, except as provided in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(d). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is that inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1.53(b), unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(j) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors." 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(a)(1).*

Enclosed UNSIGNED

executed by (check *all* applicable boxes)

inventor(s).

legal representative of inventor(s) 37 CFR 1.42 or 1.43

joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached

This is the petition required by 37 CFR 1.47 and the statement required by 37 CFR 1.47 is also attached. See item 13 below for fee.

Not enclosed

WARNING: *Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application but where a declaration is not available or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED.*

Application is made by a person authorized under 37 CFR 1.41(c) on behalf of *all* the above named inventor(s).

(The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be filed subsequently.)

Showing that the filing is authorized. (Not required unless called into question. 37 CFR 1.41(d)).

6. Inventorship Statement

NOTE: *If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.*

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

The same

or

Are not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,
 is submitted will be submitted.

7. Language

NOTE: An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. A verified English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of \$130.00 required by 37 CFR 1.17(k) is required to be filed with the application or within such time as may be set by the Office. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

NOTE: A non-English oath or declaration in the form provided or approved by the PTO need not be translated. 37 CFR 1.69(b).

English

non-English

the attached translation includes a statement that the translation is accurate.
37 CFR 1.52(d).

8. Assignment

An assignment of the invention to _____.

is attached. A separate _____ "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or _____ FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.

will follow.

NOTE: "If an assignment is submitted with a new application, send two separate letters - one for the application and one for the assignment." Notice of May 4, 1990 (1114 O.G. 77-78).

WARNING: A newly executed "CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)" must be filed when a continuation-in-part application is filed by an assignee. Notice of April 30, 1993, 1150 O.G. 62-64.

9. Certified Copy

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

(country)	(appln.no.)	(filed)

(country) (appln.no.) (filed)
from which priority is claimed.

is (are) attached. will follow.

NOTE: The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 CFR 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application then complete item 18 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

10. Fee Calculation (37 CFR 1.16)

A. Regular application

CLAIMS AS FILED					
Number Filed		Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee 37 CFR 1.16(a)	
Total Claims 37 CFR 1.16(c)	20 - 20 =	--	X	\$18.00	-
Independent Claims 37 CFR 1.16(b)	4 - 3 =	1	X	\$78.00	78.00
Multiple dependent claim(s), if any 37 CFR 1.16(d)			X	\$260.	0.00

Amendment canceling extra claims enclosed.
 Amendment deleting multiple-dependencies enclosed.
 Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims canceled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 CFR 1.16(d).

Filing Fee Calculation \$ **838.00**

Design Application
(\$310.00 – 37 CFR 1.16(f)) **\$ 310.00**

Plant Application
(\$480.00 – 37 CFR 1.16(g)) **\$ 480.00**

Filing Fee Calculation \$

11. Small Entity Statement(s)

Verified Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is (are) attached

WARNING: "Status as a small entity must be specifically established in each application or patent in which the status is available and desired. Status as a small entity in one application or patent does not affect any other application or patent, including applications or patents which are directly or indirectly dependent upon the application or patent in which the status has been established. The refiling of an application under § 1.53 as a continuation, division, or continuation-in-part (including a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d), or the filing of a reissue application requires a new determination as to continued entitlement to small entity status for the continuing or reissue application. A nonprovisional application claiming benefit under 35 USC 119(e), 120, 121 or 365(c) of a prior application may rely on a verified statement filed in the prior application or if the nonprovisional application or the reissue application includes a reference to a verified statement in the prior application or includes a copy of the verified statement filed in the prior application if status as a small entity is still proper and desired." 37 CFR § 1.28(a).

(complete the following, if applicable)

Status as a small entity was claimed in prior application U.S. Serial No. filed on
 from which benefit is being claimed for this application under:

35 USC 119(e)
 120
 121
 365(c)

and which status as a small entity is still proper and desired.

A copy of the Verified Statement in the prior application is included.
Filing Fee Calculation (50% of A, B, or C above) \$

NOTE: Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if a verified statement and a refund request are filed within two months of the date of timely payment of a full fee. 37 CFR 1.28(a). The two-month period is not extendable under § 1.136. 37 CFR 1.28(a)

12. Request for International-Type Search (37 CFR 1.104(d)) (complete if applicable)

— Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

13. Fee Payment Being Made At This Time

Not Enclosed

No filing fee is to be paid at this time. (*This and the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be paid subsequently.*)

Enclosed

basic filing fee \$ 838.00

recording assignment (\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(h)) \$ _____
[see attached COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT ACCOMPANYING NEW APPLICATION]

petition fee for filing by other than all the inventors or person on behalf of the inventor where inventor refused to sign or cannot be reached (\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.47 and 1.17(i)) \$ _____

for processing an application with a specification in a non-English language (\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.52(d) and 1.17(k)) \$ _____

processing and retention fee (\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.52(d) and 1.21(l)) \$ _____

fee for international-type search report \$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(e)) \$ _____

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application which is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(f) and this, as well as the changes to 37 CFR 1.53 and 1.78 (a)(1), indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee must be paid or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) must be paid within 1 year from notification under § 53(f).

Total fees enclosed \$ 838.00

14. Method of Payment of Fees

Check(s) in the amount of \$ _____

Charge Account No. 13-4213 in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 CFR 1.22(b).

15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING: If no fees are to be paid on filing the following items should not be completed.

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No.13-4213:

37 CFR 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)

37 CFR 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims canceled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 CFR 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

37 CFR 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

37 CFR 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (application processing fees)

NOTE: "...A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a construction petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

— 37 CFR 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b)).

NOTE: *Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 CFR 1.311(b).*

NOTE: 37 CFR 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 CFR 1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

16. Instructions As To Overpayment

Note: "...amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payor be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

X credit Account No. 13-4213
 refund



Reg. No. 35,9649

Tel. No. (505) 998-1500

Jeffrey D. Myers
PEACOCK, MYERS & ADAMS, P.C.
P. O. Box 26927
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927
Direct line: (505) 998-1502

Customer No. 005179

X **Incorporation by reference of added pages**

Check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional, provisional or C-I-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED

X Plus Added Pages for New Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed
Number of pages added five

X Plus Added Pages For Papers Referred To In Item 4 Above
Number of pages added one

 Plus added pages deleting names of inventor(s) named in prior application(s) who is/are no longer inventor(s) of the subject matter claimed in this application
Number of pages added

 Plus "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"
Number of pages added

 Statement Where No Further Pages Added

(If no further pages form a part of this Transmittal then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item)

 This transmittal ends with this page.

ADDED PAGES FOR APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF
PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED

NOTE: See 37 CFR 1.78(a).

17. Relate Back

WARNING: *If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 USC 120, 121 or (365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 USC 120, 121 or 365(c), (35 USC 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 USC 119, 365(a) or (365(b).) For a C-I-P application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.*

(complete the following, if applicable)

Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line, the following sentence:

A. 35 USC 119(e)

NOTE *"Any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior filed copending provisional applications must contain or be amended to contain in the first sentence of the specification following the title a reference to each such prior provisional application, identifying it as a provisional application, and including the provisional application number (consisting of series code and serial number)." 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(4).*

*This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s).:
APPLICATION(S) FILING DATE(S)*

Serial No. 60/109,600 November 23, 1998 AND

Serial No. 60/113,144 December 17, 1998 "

B. 35 USC 120, 121 and 365(c)

NOTE: *"Except for a continued prosecution application filed under § 1.53(d) any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior filed copending nonprovisionals or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain in the first sentence of the specification following the title a reference to such each prior application identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or the international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications." Cross-references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (See § 1.14(b)),"* 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2).

This application is a continuation; continuation-in-part; divisional of copending application(s)
 serial number filed on "
 International Application filed on and which designated the U.S."

NOTE: *The proper reference to a prior filed PCT application which entered the U.S. national phase is the U.S. serial number and the filing date of the PCT application which designated the U.S.*

NOTE: *(1) Where the application being transmitted adds subject matter to the International Application then the filing can be as a continuation-in-part or (2) it is desired to do so for other reasons, then the filing can be as a continuation.*

NOTE: *The deadline for entering the national phase in the U.S. for an international application was clarified in the Notice of April 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 to 46) as follows:*

"The Patent and Trademark Office considers the International application to be pending until the 22nd month from the priority date if the United States has been designated and no Demand for International Preliminary Examination has been filed prior to the expiration of the 19th month from the priority date and until the 32nd month from the priority date if a Demand for International Preliminary Examination which elected the United

States of America has been filed prior to the expiration of the 19th month from the priority date, provided that a copy of the international application has been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office within the 20 and 30 month period respectively. If a copy of the international application has not been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office within the 20 and 30 month period respectively, the international application becomes abandoned as to the United States 20 or 30 months from the priority date respectively. These periods have been placed in the rules as a paragraph (h) of § 1.494 and paragraph (l) of § 1.495. A continuing application under 35 U.S.C. 365(c) and 120 may be filed anytime during the pendency of the international application."

— "The nonprovisional application designated above, namely application _____, filed _____, claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Applications(s) No(s).:

APPLICATION NO(S): _____

FILING DATE(S): _____

[Where more than one reference is made, please combine all references into one sentence]

18. Relate Back – 35 U.S.C. 119 Priority Claim for Prior Application

The prior U.S. application(s), including any prior International Application designating the U.S. identified above in item 17B, in turn itself claim(s) foreign priority(ies) as follows:

country	appn. no.	filed on
<hr/> <p>The certified copy(ies) has (have) _____ been filed on _____ in prior application ___, which was filed on _____ is (are) attached.</p> <hr/>		

WARNING: *The certified copy of the priority application that may have been communicated to the PTO by the International Bureau may not be relied on without any need to file a certified copy of the priority application in the continuing application. This is so because the certified copy of the priority application communicated by the International Bureau is placed in a folder and is not assigned a U.S. serial number unless the national stage is entered. Such folders are disposed of if the national stage is not entered. Therefore such certified copies may not be available if needed later in the prosecution of a continuing application. An alternative would be to physically remove the priority documents from the folders and transfer them to the continuing application. The resources required to request transfer, retrieve the folders, make suitable record notations, transfer the certified copies, enter and make a record of such copies in the Continuing Application are substantial. Accordingly, the priority documents in folders of international applications which have not entered the national stage may not be relied on.*
Notice of April 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 to 46)

19. Maintenance of Copendency of Prior Application

NOTE: The PTO finds it useful if a copy of the petition filed in the prior application extending the term for response is filed with the papers constituting the filing of the continuation application. Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

A. Extension of time in prior application
(This item must be completed and the papers filed in the prior application if the period set in the prior application has run)
 A petition, fee and response extends the term in the pending prior application until _____.

B. A copy of the petition filed in prior application is attached.
Conditional Petition for Extension of Time in Prior Application
(complete this item if previous item not applicable)
 A conditional petition for extension of time is being filed in the pending prior application.
 A copy of the conditional petition filed in the prior application is attached.

20. Further Inventorship Statement Where Benefit of Prior Application(s) Claimed

(complete applicable item (a), (b) and/or (c) below)

(a) This application discloses and claims only subject matter disclosed in the prior application whose particulars are set out above and the inventor(s) in this application are
 the same
 less than those named in the prior application and it is requested that the following inventor(s) identified for the prior application be deleted:

(Type name(s) of inventor(s) to be deleted)

(b) This application discloses and claims additional disclosure by amendment and a new declaration or oath is being filed. With respect to the prior application the inventor(s) in this application are
 X the same
 the following additional inventor(s) have been added

(Type name(s) of inventor(s) to be added)

(c) The inventorship for all the claims in this application are
 the same
 not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made
 is submitted
 will be submitted

21. Abandonment of Prior Application (if applicable)

Please abandon the prior application at a time while the prior application is pending or when the petition for extension of time or to revive in that application is granted and when this application is granted a filing date so as to make this application copending with said prior application.

NOTE: According to the Notice of May 13, 1983 (103 TMOG 6-7) the filing of a continuation or continuation-in-part application is a proper response with respect to a petition for extension of time or a petition to revive and should include the express abandonment of the prior application conditioned upon the granting of the petition and the granting of a filing date to the continuing application.

22. Petition for Suspension of Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File an Amendment

(Added Pages for Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Applications Claimed [4-1.1] -- page 3 of 5

WARNING: *"The claims of a new application may be finally rejected in the first Office Action in those situations where (A) the new application is a continuing application of, or a substitute for, an earlier application, and (B) all the claims of the new application (1) are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application, and (2) would have been properly finally rejected on the grounds of art of record in the next Office Action if they had been entered in the earlier application." MPEP, § 706.07(b) 7th ed.*

NOTE: *Where it is possible that the claims on file will give rise to a first action final for this continuation application and for some reason an amendment cannot be filed promptly (e.g., experimental data is being gathered) it may be desirable to file a petition for suspension of prosecution for the time necessary.*

(check the next item, if applicable)

There is provided herewith a Petition to Suspend Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently)

23. SMALL ENTITY (35 CFR § 1.28(a))

Applicant has established small entity status by the filing of a verified statement in parent application Serial number on .
 A copy of the verified Statement previously filed is included.

WARNING: See 37 CFR § 1.28(a).

WARNING: *"A small entity status must not be established when the person or persons signing the...statement can unequivocally make the required self-certification." M.P.E.P. § 509.03, 7th ed. (Emphasis added)*

24 NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THIS FILING

_____ A notification of the filing of this (*check one of the following*)

- continuation
- continuation-in-part
- divisional

is being filed in the parent application, from which this application claims priority under 35 USC § 120.

[\\JDMDOCS\\ANNETTE\\Treider-Trans.PTO.doc] 30288-1001

PATENT APPLICATION

ELECTRONIC FACTORING

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/109,600, entitled "Profitscape Software," filed on November 23, 1998, and the specification thereof is incorporated herein by reference. This application also claims the benefit of the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/113,144, entitled "Purchase Transaction Fulfillment Database," filed on December 17, 1998, and the specification thereof is also incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention (Technical Field):

15 The present invention relates to the field of electronic commerce.

Background Art:

Factoring includes buying and selling accounts receivable and credit insuring. Accounts receivable are purchased based upon the assumption that the accounts receivable are valid and collectable. Accounts receivable are sold in order to quickly obtain cash for cash flow purposes, rather than to retain them as receivable. Accounts receivable are also frequently used to borrow money upon, in order to finance other unrelated transactions. Factoring also includes credit insuring which occurs when an entity insures payment of an account receivable for a vendor, so that if the buyer does not pay, the insurer will. With the recent rapid growth of information applications on the Internet, computer networks have the potential to establish a new kind of open market place for goods and services. Buyers and sellers increasingly want to use the Internet to conduct their business electronically. This new method of doing business is referred to as electronic commerce, or "e-commerce."

The timely and costly process of processing paper requests for transactions such as the buying and selling of accounts receivable, as well as goods and services, plagues business transactions.

Furthermore, buyers and sellers must expend significant resources to make appropriate credit

- 5 decisions regarding a transaction. In procurement transactions, it is customary for the transaction to involve some form of credit, such as "open account trade credit," provided by the seller generally at no charge to the buyer but for a set period of time, normally thirty days. Buyers generally do not explicitly pay for the receipt of open account trade credit, and consider this free credit part of the established buyer/seller relationship. Credit cards are also available for relatively small purchases and operate by
- 10 having a financial institution issue the credit card, and a merchant bank provide the cardholder with a revolving line of credit that can be used to buy goods from sellers who accept the credit card. This allows the cardholder to pay for credit card purchases over a period of time at an interest rate set by the merchant bank.

- 15 Other types of credit are travel and entertainment cards, which unlike credit cards, are considered to be open-ended credit with payment in full due at the time of billing, and does not extend revolving credit to the buyer, or cardholder. Credit cards, travel, and entertainment cards provide a uniform level of risk assessment to the seller and the seller pays a pre-determined interchange fee regardless of the actual credit risk presented by the buyer.

20

Commercial transactions are evolving to include electronic communication of financial transactions. Advances in computer networks and communication systems now apply to processing purchase and credit transactions. An important application of new computer technology is electronic commerce, which includes using electronic networks as a marketplace for business and consumer

- 25 transactions. Electronic commerce services can include electronic brokerages, distributorships or clearinghouses that facilitate trade with electronic interchange media, such as public networks, for example the Internet, or proprietary access networks.

Electronic commerce, however, does not currently offer financial services to sellers, such as payment and credit assessments of buyers, electronic factoring and credit insuring of transactions. This need is usually fulfilled by relying on traditional techniques of credit analysis and payment before a transaction can be completed.

5

Various patents discuss methods of performing e-commerce wherein buyers and sellers are connected, but none address the issue of electronic factoring and credit insurance. U.S. Patent No. 4,992,940, to Dworkin, entitled "System and Method for Automated Selection of Equipment for Purchase Through Input of User Desired Specifications," discloses an automated system that assists 10 the user in locating and purchasing goods and services sold by a variety of vendors. U.S. Patent No. 5,732,400, to Mandler et al., entitled "System and Method for a Risk-Based Purchase of Goods," discloses a financial clearinghouse for receiving requests for goods or services from a buyer and making a real-time determination of a risk classification of the buyer using an online repository of credit 15 information. U.S. Patent No. 5,757,917, to Rose et al., entitled "Computerized Payment System for Purchasing Goods and Services on the Internet," discloses a computerized payment system that prequalifies and pays a buyer's order through a third party, but is not a guarantee-of-payment mechanism. U.S. Patent No. 5,822,737, to Ogram, entitled "Financial Transaction System," discloses 20 an automated payment system allowing a consumer to purchase goods or services over the Internet with a credit card that is verified before making the payment. U.S. Patent No. 5,802,497, to Manasse, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Conducting Computerized Commerce," discloses the use of a broker, broker scrip, vendor scrip, and currency to sell parts and services and deliver to the consumer. U.S. Patent No. 5,745,886, to Rosen, entitled "Trusted Agents for Open Distribution of Electronic 25 Money," discloses using a customer trusted agent and merchant trusted agent and establishing a crypto-graphically secure session, and to provide electronic money purchase or sale information and an account credential to the merchant trusted agent. U.S. Patent No. 5,557,518, also to Rosen, entitled "Trusted Agents for Open Electronic Commerce," also discloses the use of trusted agents, establishing a crypto-graphically secure session and electronically transferring funds in purchasing merchandise. U.S. Patent No. 5,717,923, to Dedrick, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Dynamically

Customizing Electronic Information to Individual End Users," discloses maintaining a personal profile database to store consumer information and a consent adapter to compare electronic information received by a client system to consumer information in the personal profile database.

5 U.S. Patent No. 5,717, 989, to Tozzoli et al., entitled "Full Service Trade System," discloses storing criteria specified by a funder relative to trade transactions for buyers and sellers and comparing the criteria with a proposed purchase order in order to determine whether the system can generate a payment guarantee on behalf of the funder for the buyer to the seller. U.S. Patent No. 5,826,241, to Stein et al., entitled "Computerized System for Making Payments and Authenticating Transactions

10 Over the Internet," discloses a payment system that provides cardholder accounts for first and second Internet users and making queries to the first user on whether to proceed with payment to the second user. U.S. Patent No. 5,842,178, to Giovannoli, entitled "Computerized Quotation System and Method," discloses a computer-based communications network of members for processing requests for quotes for goods and services, as well as storage containing the identification of the members and

15 means for transmitting and broadcasting requests for quotes. U.S. Patent No. 5,694,551, to Doyle et al., entitled "Computer Integration Network for Channeling Customer Orders Through a Centralized Computer to Various Suppliers," discloses an electronic requisitioning system that channels customer orders to internal suppliers and outside vendors, and processes invoices. U.S Patent No. 5,671,280, to Rosen, entitled "System and Method for Commercial Payments Using Trusted Agents," discloses a

20 system for electronic payment using a customer trusted agent and a merchant trusted agent. U.S. Patent No. 5,664,115, to Fraser, entitled "Interactive Computer System to Match Buyers and Sellers of Real Estate, Businesses and Other Property Using the Internet," discloses automatically connecting sellers of property with potential buyers, preferably over the Internet, wherein the host system stores records regarding the properties and can be searched by potential buyers, and the system permits

25 evaluation of potential buyers to screen them.

Various articles have been written which disclose forms of electronic payment methods, but these methodologies only relate to moving money around, from one account to another, electronically and do not address the present need in the marketplace for electronic factoring.

The present invention overcomes all of the limitations of the prior art and addresses the need

5 for an electronic commerce version for factoring. The present invention enables buyers to purchase goods from vendors with a third party guarantee to the vendor via electronic factoring that guarantees the payment. By using the present invention, electronic factoring, including credit insurance, is performed in an efficient manner. The present invention enables buyers to obtain goods and services immediately without having to pay for them at the time of the transaction.

10

The present invention is a credit database set up for all users that assigns a credit limit to the customers for credit as well as a credit instrument for guarantee of payment to vendors. Payment is guaranteed through a banking partner, the guaranteeing financial institution, who guarantees all receivables that are created through the sales on the platform (entitled "ProfitScape" in the Figures) to 15 ensure payment and security of the transaction. The system tracks and maintains a database that details credit dollar amounts available and account activity of each user. The present invention defines a credit-worthy marketplace that enables users, who become members, to purchase goods and services on credit based on their respective financial positions which have been evaluated by the guaranteeing financial institution.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION (DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION)

The present invention is a method and system for electronic factoring. The method comprises the steps of providing an electronic platform for guaranteeing payment of receivables; inputting information from users into a profile database upon the electronic platform; assigning buyers a credit 25 limit; and guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor. Additionally, the method comprises linking at least two users, the users being either buyers, vendors, international licensees, or financial institutions for guaranteeing payment via the platform. Guaranteeing payment to vendors preferably comprises aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution. Aligning

the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution preferably comprises aligning the platform with that institution in order to perform a factoring-type such as credit insuring, full-factoring, or lending.

The electronic factoring method can further comprise the steps of producing a symbol to represent each user's profile and exchanging information between users via the symbol on the electronic

5 platform. Guaranteeing payment to vendors can comprise electronically sending the vendor the user's symbol in order to show the vendor that payment is guaranteed by the platform. The method can further comprise the steps of electronically sending the user's symbol to the guaranteeing financial institution and sending a guarantee of compensation from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor. Guaranteeing payment to vendors can comprise the steps of issuing each user an identifying
10 card showing membership on the platform; purchasing from the vendor with the identifying card; and accessing the user's credit availability via the platform with the identifying card.

Providing an electronic platform preferably comprises providing an Internet web site having the platform for users to access, and optionally comprises the step of providing Internet web site links for

15 users to access other users' web sites. The step of inputting information from users into a profile database preferably comprises the steps of inputting data such as name, address, contact information, primary industry, credit insured amount, payment history, credit usage, target marketplace, products offered, services offered, inventory, buying trend data, and Internet usage data.

20 The electronic factoring method further can comprise the steps of verifying a user as a member of the platform and purchasing from the vendor. Purchasing from the vendor can comprise first searching the profile database with a search engine. Purchasing from the vendor preferably comprises purchasing from the vendor with a line of credit within the credit limit established by the profile database.

25

Guaranteeing payment to vendors can comprise the steps of reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution; making payment to the platform; and forwarding payment from the platform to the vendor. Guaranteeing payment to vendors can alternatively comprise reassigning the

receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution; making payment to the guaranteeing financial institution; and forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor. In yet another alternative embodiment, guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises accessing the platform directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability and forwarding payment to the vendor upon 5 verification. In still another alternative embodiment, guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises accessing the guaranteeing financial institution directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability and forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification. Still another alternative embodiment of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises accessing the platform for verification of credit availability; paying the guaranteeing financial institution for purchases; and forwarding payment 10 from the guaranteeing financial institution to the platform and merchant bank so that the merchant bank can credit the vendor.

The electronic factoring method also can comprise the steps of maintaining user credit records on the platform and periodically reviewing credit records by the financial institution for buyer credit 15 availability. Linking at least two users can comprise the steps of creating offers by the vendor; sending the offers to an offer database on the platform for storage; comparing the offer database with the user profiles in the profile database; creating a list of matching offers and user profiles; and offering users those offers that match the user's profile upon log-in.

20 The present invention is also a method of electronic factoring comprising the steps of assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform; verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing platform; verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to make a purchase; subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit limit upon making a verified purchase; notifying the vendor of the purchase order; reassigning the receivable to a 25 guaranteeing financial institution via the guaranteeing platform; billing the buyer for the purchase order; and forwarding payment to the vendor. Forwarding payment to the vendor optionally comprises forwarding payment to the vendor from either the buyer, the guaranteeing financial institution, or the guaranteeing platform.

The present invention is also an electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables and comprises an electronic platform; a profile database upon the electronic platform for inputting information from users; means for assigning buyers a credit limit; and means for guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor. The electronic factoring system can additionally comprise means for linking at least two users wherein the users consist of buyers, vendors, international licensees, and financial institutions for guaranteeing payment via the platform. Means for guaranteeing payment to vendors preferably comprises means for aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution, and wherein said means for aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution comprises aligning with a guaranteeing financial institution so that that institution can perform factoring such as credit insuring, full-factoring, or lending. The electronic system can further comprises means for producing a symbol to represent each user's profile, and means for exchanging information between users via the symbol on the electronic platform. Means for guaranteeing payment to vendors can comprise means for electronically sending the vendor the user's symbol in order to show the vendor that payment is guaranteed by the platform. The system can alternatively further comprise means for electronically sending the user's symbol to the guaranteeing financial institution and means for sending a guarantee of compensation from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor. Means for guaranteeing payment to vendors can alternatively comprise an identifying card issued to each user showing membership on the platform; means for purchasing from the vendor with the identifying card; and means for accessing the user's credit availability via the platform with the identifying card.

The electronic platform of the electronic factoring system preferably comprises an Internet web site having the platform available for users to access. The Internet web site can further comprise links for users to access other users' web sites. The profile database of the electronic factoring system preferably comprises a profile database for inputting data from users. This data can consist of any of the following: name, address, contact information, primary industry, credit insured amount, payment

history, credit usage, target marketplace, products offered, services offered, inventory, buying trend data, and internet usage data.

The electronic factoring system can further comprise means for verifying a user as a member 5 of the platform and means for purchasing from the vendor. Means for purchasing from the vendor can comprise means for first searching the profile database with a search engine. Means for purchasing from the vendor preferably comprises means for purchasing from the vendor with a line of credit within the credit limit established by the profile database.

10 Means for guaranteeing payment to vendors can comprise means for reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution; means for making payment to the platform; and means for forwarding payment from the platform to the vendor. Alternatively, means for guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises means for reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution; means for making payment to the guaranteeing financial institution; and means for 15 forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor. In still another alternative embodiment, means for guaranteeing payment to vendor comprises means for accessing the platform directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability and means for forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification. In still another alternative embodiment, the means for guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises means for accessing the guaranteeing financial institution directly by the vendor 20 for verification of credit availability and means for forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification. In yet another alternative embodiment, the means for guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises means for accessing the platform for verification of credit availability; means for paying the guaranteeing financial institution for purchase; and means for forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the platform and merchant bank so that the merchant bank can 25 credit the vendor.

The electronic factoring system can further comprise means for maintaining user credit records on the platform and means for periodically reviewing credit records by the financial institution for buyer

credit availability. Means for linking at least two users can comprise means for creating offers by the vendor; means for sending the offers to an offer database on the platform for storage; means for comparing the offer database with the user profiles in the profile database; means for creating a list of matching offers and user profiles; and means for offering users those offers that match the user's profile upon login.

The present invention is also an electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables comprising means for assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform; means for verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing platform; means for verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to make a purchase; means for subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit limit upon making a verified purchase; means for notifying the vendor of the purchase order; means for reassigning the receivable to a guaranteeing financial institution via the guaranteeing platform; means for billing the buyer for the purchase order; and means for forwarding payment to the vendor. Means for forwarding payment to the vendor can comprise means for forwarding payment to the vendor from either the buyer, the guaranteeing financial institution, or the guaranteeing platform.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide unique profiled information that is delivered through an electronic system using software agents that enable credit and/or a guarantee of compensation to vendors for buyers.

A primary advantage of the present invention is that a unique database profile is created incorporating specific sales and product information detailing what each user has to sell, terms, company history, unique product information, and the category of transaction, be it either a retail or wholesale target market.

Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides unique profiled information and open access to both buyers and vendors to find information and make purchases guaranteed for payment.

5 Yet another advantage of the present invention is that it enables users to find unique information that matches their targeted request and enables them to purchase and consummate transactions electronically.

10 Other objects, advantages and novel features, and further scope of applicability of the present invention will be set forth in part in the detailed description to follow, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and in part will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the following, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated into and form a part of the specification, illustrate several embodiments of the present invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. The drawings are only for the purpose of illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a first embodiment of the present invention showing the flow of purchase and fulfillment between buyer and vendor using the electronic commerce web site platform of the present invention;

25

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a second embodiment of the present invention wherein the buyer makes payment directly to the guaranteeing institution;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of the post-shopping experience for a user of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram of the functions that an existing customer or new user proceeds through when visiting the web site platform of the present invention;

5

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing the functions that a user proceeds through with customer service;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a user searching the database of the present invention and 10 consummating a transaction with a link to other web sites;

Figs. 7a-7e demonstrate the algorithmic methods of communication for the various embodiments of the present invention;

15 Fig. 8 is a flow diagram showing the first international licensee embodiment of the present invention in the first stage;

Fig. 9 is a flow diagram showing the first international licensee embodiment of the present invention in the second stage;

20

Fig. 10 is a flow diagram of a second international licensee embodiment of the present invention in the first stage wherein the financial institution of guarantee works directly with the international licensee;

25 Fig. 11 is a flow diagram of a second international licensee embodiment of the present invention in the second stage;

Fig. 12 is a third international licensee embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 13 is a fourth international licensee embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing the connection being made between user and vendor;

Fig. 15 is a flow chart showing the user application for credit;

Fig. 16 is a flow chart showing the user log-in to the present invention;

10 Fig. 17 is a flow chart showing the user making a purchase through the methodology of the present invention;

15 Fig. 18 is a flow diagram of an alternative embodiment of the present invention wherein both a guarantor bank and a merchant bank are used in the process;

Fig. 19 is a flow diagram of another alternative embodiment of the present invention wherein both a guarantor bank and merchant bank are used;

20 Fig. 20 is a flow diagram of the preferred user login to a web site according to the invention;

Fig. 21 is a flow diagram of the preferred purchase transaction according to the invention;

Fig. 22 is a flow diagram of a first interaction with two guarantor banks;

25 Fig. 23 is a flow diagram of a second interaction with two guarantor banks;

Fig. 24 is a flow diagram of a preferred lockbox of the invention;

Fig. 25 is an illustrative approval screen in a web page according to the invention prior to submission;

Fig. 26 is an illustrative approval screen in a web page according to the invention after
5 submission;

Fig. 27 is an illustrative edit screen; and

Fig. 28 is a top-level flow diagram of the preferred web site of the invention in conjunction with customer web sites.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

(BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION)

The present invention is a payment or credit arrangement process wherein payment of all transactions are guaranteed through a platform, and aligned guaranteeing financial institution (or 5 guarantor bank). All users, whether buyers or sellers ("vendors") are put into a profile database that defines their credit amount, credit used, and credit available. A unique number is then assigned to each user that will be used as an identifying symbol to be held in the electronic database. This symbol, or digital representation thereof, represents a profile enabling users to obtain and utilize credit to facilitate purchases of goods, services, and other intangibles through the system. The information 10 and implementation of the present invention is preferably distributed electronically over data lines into a worldwide web platform to facilitate users' purchase transactions or vendors' sales needs.

The digitally produced symbol is delivered electronically via data lines to find targeted information, and enables the buyer to purchase goods, services, or other intangibles ordered through 15 the system. A search engine is used to locate the required information over a network of profiled vendors. The same process operates in reverse to also link vendors to buyers. Information using software agents can be accessed electronically based on an Alchemy model that enables users to seek and match their specific requests. The unique symbol that is assigned for the vendor's profile, as well as a specific symbol representing the targeted audience of buyers, with additional symbols or 20 digital representations for other information, allows for an efficient and easy-to-use exchange of information. Additionally, proprietary profiles can also be maintained to facilitate electronic commerce for users within the database to exchange information and to target specific information to a targeted audience.

25 Vendors benefit by reaching buyers through the system and offering credit to purchase their goods, services, or other intangibles. Competing advertising members can use the system to reach the attention of users who wish to seek information residing on the system as well. Vendors can use

the credit system to sell to buyers within the profile database to ensure future payment of goods that are sold on a time-delay process unique to each of the profiled users.

Vendors use the system to transmit and record their requests for compensation. Buyers are then able to guarantee their request to deliver compensation by using the digitally produced symbol, or 5 symbols, that are activated by an icon. The requests are processed through the electronic database of profiled information within the system.

By electronically transmitting the symbol, the user can deliver a promise of compensation to be paid immediately, or in the future. By using software agents, the electronic database transmits digital 10 information electronically to those users who are seeking to receive compensation in exchange for releasing the requested items that the user/buyer has requested. The digitally produced symbol simultaneously instructs a third party to deliver a guarantee of compensation on behalf of each user. The third party guarantees compensation to the vendor in the form of either credit insuring, full-factoring, or lending based upon accounts receivable.

15 Attention is now directed to the figures. Fig. 1 is a flow diagram of a first embodiment of the present invention showing the purchase and fulfillment between a buyer, vendor, and guaranteeing financial institution using the method of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 1, the buyer makes a purchase from the vendor with a guaranteed credit line as established in the profile database 10. The 20 purchase order is then being forwarded to the vendor for fulfillment 12. Then the receivable is reassigned to the guaranteeing financial institution for a guarantee of the receivables 14, the purchase order is returned to the buyer for the buyer's records 16. The vendor ships the order with a copy of the invoice and terms back to the buyer 18, for example, net 30, net 60, or net 90. Then the vendor sends shipment confirmation and a copy of the invoice to the platform for the present invention, entitled 25 "ProfitScape" (hereinafter referred to as the platform), on an e-commerce web site 20. Next the buyer makes payment to the platform based upon the vendor terms 22, and the platform forwards payment to the vendor 24, minus a negotiated percentage. The platform profile database maintains credit records and transfers all monies from the buyer to the vendor minus a negotiated percentage or

transaction fee, for example 8-12% of the transaction. The guaranteeing financial institution will review the accounts periodically, for example every 90 days, for buyer credit line limits. Also periodically, for example every 30 days, the platform reconciles with the guaranteeing financial institution for a percentage of all gross revenue of the platform's guaranteed electronic commerce 5 transactions.

Fig. 2 is a second embodiment of the present invention and is similar to that of Fig. 1. In Fig. 2, the buyer makes a purchase through the guaranteeing financial institution with a guaranteed credit line 26. The purchase order is then forwarded to the vendor for fulfillment 28 and the purchase order is 10 then returned to the buyer for the buyer's records 30. Then the vendor ships the order with a copy of the invoice and terms to the buyer 32, and the vendor sends shipment confirmation and a copy of the invoice to the guaranteeing financial institution 34. Next the buyer making payment to the guaranteeing institution based upon the vendor's terms 36 and the institution forwarding payment to the vendor minus the institution's negotiated percentage 38.

15
Fig. 3 is a block diagram demonstrating the post-shopping experience of the buyer using the methodology of the present invention. The user first shops and then views their order, and before checking out, chooses a form of payment, be it either a credit card, or through the platform of the present invention. If a credit card is chosen as the method of payment, the transaction proceeds 20 through the platform of the present invention. If the user is enrolled in the platform of the present invention, their transaction is guaranteed. The user is also offered the choice of joining and becoming a member of the platform.

Fig. 4 shows the process that a user proceeds through when first logging on to the platform of 25 the present invention. First the existing customer or the new user visits the web site having the platform of the present invention 40. The new user applies for membership and a line of credit with guaranteed receivables 42. An existing user is shown logging in with their user name and password 44, and the existing customer or new user is forwarded to the appropriate web sites for purchases 46.

Applications for credit and guarantees are forwarded to the financial institution for review **48**. If the application for credit has been denied, the customer is then notified **50**. If the application for credit has been approved, the customer is assigned a guaranteed credit limit **52**, as well as an "ID" and is then entered into the user profile database.

5

Fig. 5 is a block diagram demonstrating an approved customer **54** being forwarded to customer service so that customer service can gather information **56** and create a user database profile on their company, products, target market, history, terms, etc. Example data collected for the user's profile includes: name, address, contact information, primary industry, credit insured amount, payment

10 history, credit usage, target marketplace, products offered, services offered, inventory, buying trend data, and internet usage data.

Fig. 6 is a block diagram demonstrating a user searching the profile database. A user queries the database through a search engine for specific information **58**. Data is searched from the database 15 and returned to the user **60**. Then the user accesses a web site from a returned data link **62**, and the user consummates an electronic commerce transaction **64** such as that shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 shows the algorithmic methods for the various embodiments of the present invention. In Fig. 7a the buyer, seller, and guaranteeing institution cannot communicate with each other but only 20 with the platform for the present invention. In Fig. 7b the buyer and seller only communicate with the guaranteeing institution and not with each other. In Fig. 7c the buyer, seller, and guaranteeing institution can all communicate directly with each other. In Fig. 7d the buyer and guaranteeing institution can each only communicate with the seller, but the seller can communicate with either or both of the buyer and guaranteeing institution. In Fig. 7e the seller and the guaranteeing institution 25 can each only communicate with the buyer, but the buyer can communicate with either or both of them.

Fig. 8 shows a first embodiment flow diagram wherein the method of the present invention includes an international licensee. First a user applies for a credit line through the international licensee **66**. Then an application is entered into the database of the present invention **68**, and that application is forwarded to the guaranteeing financial institution **70**. Then the applicant who is 5 approved is assigned a line of credit and a user ID, and the database is then updated with their information **72**. The user and licensee are then notified **74**. At this point, the process proceeds as shown in Fig. 9. If the application is denied, the applicant and licensee are notified accordingly **76**.

Fig. 9 demonstrates the process that proceeds after the applicant has been approved in Fig. 8.

10 The international buyer accesses the marketplace through a licensee **78**. Then the platform's buyer makes an international purchase on the platform with the user's ID **80**. Next the user ID and credit availability are checked through the database and the guaranteeing financial institution **82** and **82'**. Then the seller receives the order with the guaranteed receivables **84**, and the transaction has been completed and the order is shipped to the buyer **86**.

15

Fig. 10 is a flow diagram for a second embodiment of the international licensee application of the present invention. First the user applies for a credit line through an international licensee **88**. Then the application is forwarded to the guaranteeing financial institution **90**. If the application is approved, the applicant is then assigned a line of credit and a user ID **92**. The user and licensee are then 20 notified. At this point, the process proceeds as shown in Fig. 11. If the application is denied, the applicant and licensee are accordingly notified **94**.

Fig. 11 represents the next stage in the process after having completed those steps in Fig. 10. In Fig. 11, the international buyer accesses the marketplace through a licensee **96** and the platform 25 buyer makes an international purchase **98** on the platform of the present invention with the user ID. Then the user ID and credit availability are checked through the guaranteeing financial institution **100**. The seller receives the order with the guaranteed receivables **102**, the transaction is completed and the order is shipped to the buyer **104**.

Fig. 12 is a third embodiment of the international licensee application of the present invention.

In Fig. 12, the guaranteed buyer makes a purchase from a vendor on an international licensee platform **106**. Then the user ID and password are passed to a module **108** which allows the

5 communication with the database of the present invention, and the ID and credit availability are checked through the database, as well as the guaranteeing financial institution **110** and **110'**. The vendor web site receives verification **112**, and the transaction is completed and the order is then shipped to the buyer **114**.

10 Fig. 13 is a fourth embodiment of the international licensee application of the present invention wherein the communication occurs directly with the guaranteeing financial institution. First, the guaranteed buyer makes purchases from a vendor on the international licensee platform **116**. Then the user ID and password are passed to a module which allows communication with the database of the present invention **118**. Next the user ID and credit availability are checked through the 15 guaranteeing financial institution **120**. The vendor web site receives verification **122**, and the transaction is completed and the order is then shipped to the buyer **124**.

Fig. 14 is a flow chart demonstrating vendors' direct marketing to existing registered users (buyers) of the present invention. The buyer logs on and sees offers being presented from the 20 database, and chooses whether or not to accept the offer. If the offer is accepted, the transaction is concluded. If the offer is not accepted, the user continues on through the web site. The vendor creates offers and then sends them to the database for storage. The vendor then creates a user profile from the information off of the database. The database then compares the profile created by the vendor with existing customer profiles. The present invention then creates a list of matching users 25 who wish to see offers of this type and proceeds to offer them to those users the next time that they log on.

Fig. 15 is a flow chart showing the user applying for credit with the methodology of the present invention. The user first applies for a credit line, and that information is then added to the database. The information is then submitted to a financial institution and the financial institution either approves or disapproves the credit application. If the application is not approved, the user is informed of the 5 result. If the application is approved, the amount of credit is recorded for the user and the user is accordingly informed of approval and the amount of credit. For example, an applicant applies for a "net 30 card". This card is similar in appearance to a credit card. Should the applicant be approved for the net 30 card, then they will be able to purchase goods and services immediately, and upon receipt the guaranteeing institution or platform of the present invention will guarantee payment within 10 thirty days to the vendor. The applicant can apply for the card either manually or electronically. Information received from the candidate is then entered into a database which is forwarded to a guaranteeing financial institution. The guaranteeing financial institution then reviews the application 15 information and issues an insured line of credit if the applicant is approved. Once the applicant is approved, the guaranteeing financial institution notifies the platform of the insured credit line and guarantees payment of receivables. Then the net 30 card is issued to the applicant, who is now a registered user of the platform of the present invention. The user's transactions are then checked through the platform profile database for available credit and amounts adjusted. At the end of each day, the platform of the present invention keeps the guaranteeing financial institution updated on all user accounts' status. This methodology insures the vendor's receivables.

20

Fig. 16 is a flow chart demonstrating the steps that a user proceeds through in logging on to the web site containing the platform of the present invention. The user first arrives at the public Web site and enters their login ID. The site then compares their ID and password to those recorded in the database. If the log-in is not valid, then the user is refused access and is returned to the public Web 25 site. If the log-in is valid, then the user preferences are retrieved from the database and are customized to provide a personalized page displayed to the user. The user then continues with member-only options within the system.

Fig. 17 is a flow chart demonstrating a user making a purchase using the methodology of the present invention. The user first attempts to conclude the transaction and the platform of the present invention ascertains the user's identity and compares their transaction with an available credit balance stored in the database. If their available balance is not adequate, then the transaction is denied. If the 5 available balance is adequate, then the transaction proceeds and the present invention subtracts the transaction total from the available balance, and the order is confirmed to the user, the vendor is notified of the purchase order, and the user receives a copy of the purchase order. Next, the receivables are reassigned to the financial institution and the vendor receives notification of the purchase order and fulfills the purchase order. Once the receivables are reassigned to the financial 10 institution, then the financial institution receives notification of that reassignment. Once the vendor notifies the platform of the fulfillment of the order and has sent the user the merchandise, the user is then billed. If the user does not pay the bill, then the financial institution is notified who then pays the platform who in turn pays the vendor. If the user does pay the bill, then their payment is added to the available credit in their account.

15

Fig. 18 is a flow diagram of a third embodiment of the present invention. First the buyer selects the platform guaranteed receivables method as the method of payment **126**. The e-commerce backend forwards purchase information to the platform profile database **128**. Available credit is checked from the user's profile and new applicants are processed **130**. Then the profile database is 20 updated accordingly **132**. The buyer is notified and if approved, the vendor, or seller, is also notified to ship **134** and **134'**. Then the buyer makes payment to the guarantor bank according to the terms set forth by the vendor, or seller **138**. The profile database is then updated accordingly **140**. The guarantor bank processes the payment and forwards payment to the platform and merchant bank **142**. Then the merchant bank credits the vendor, or seller **144**.

25

Fig. 19 is a flow diagram of a fourth embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the buyer selects the platform guaranteed receivables method as the method of payment **146**. The e-commerce backend forwards purchase information to a processor **148**. The processor forwards

information to the guaranteed receivables issuer which is the platform of the present invention **150**. Then the available credit is checked, new applicants are processed, and the profile database is updated accordingly **152**. The buyer is notified of either approval or rejection of their application **154**. If approved, the vendor, or seller, is notified to ship. The buyer makes payments to the guarantor bank 5 lock box according to the terms set forth by the vendor, or seller **156**. Next the database and credit limit are updated accordingly **158**. Then the guarantor bank processes payment and forwards payment to the platform and merchant bank **160**. Then the merchant bank credits the vendor **162**.

Figs. 20-28 further illustrate the invention as noted in the brief figure descriptions, above. The 10 embodiments presented in the figures are not meant to limit the applications of the invention. The methodology of the present invention has application in buying and selling, as well as lending based upon accounts receivables, in addition to credit insuring purchases.

Although the invention has been described in detail with particular reference to these preferred 15 embodiments, other embodiments can achieve the same results. Variations and modifications of the present invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art and it is intended to cover in the appended claims all such modifications and equivalents. The entire disclosures of all references, applications, patents, and publications cited above are hereby incorporated by reference.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for electronic factoring, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an electronic platform for guaranteeing payment of receivables;
- b) inputting information from users into a profile database upon the electronic platform;
- 10 c) assigning buyers a credit limit; and
- d) guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors

15 comprises aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution to perform a factoring-type selected from the group of factoring-types consisting of credit insuring, full-factoring, and lending.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- a) producing a symbol to represent each user's profile; and
- 20 b) exchanging information between users via the symbols on the electronic platform.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors

comprises electronically sending the vendor the user's symbol in order to show the vendor that

25 payment is guaranteed by the platform.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

- a) electronically sending the user's symbol to the guaranteeing financial institution; and
- b) sending a guarantee of compensation from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

- a) issuing each user an identifying card showing membership on the platform;
- b) purchasing from the vendor with the identifying card; and
- c) accessing the user's credit availability via the platform with the identifying card.

15 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- a) verifying a user as a member of the platform; and
- b) purchasing from the vendor.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises first searching the profile database with a search engine.

20 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of purchasing from the vendor comprises the steps of purchasing from the vendor with a line of credit within the credit limit established by the profile database.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

- 5 a) reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution;
- b) making payment to the platform; and
- c) forwarding payment from the platform to the vendor.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

- 10 a) reassigning the receivable to the guaranteeing financial institution;
- b) making payment to the guaranteeing financial institution; and
- c) forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the vendor.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors 15 comprises the steps of:

- a) accessing the platform directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and
- b) forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

20 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

- a) accessing the guaranteeing financial institution directly by the vendor for verification of credit availability; and
- b) forwarding payment to the vendor upon verification.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises the steps of:

- a) accessing the platform for verification of credit availability;
- b) paying the guaranteeing financial institution for purchase; and
- 5 c) forwarding payment from the guaranteeing financial institution to the platform and merchant bank so that the merchant bank can credit the vendor.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- 10 a) maintaining user credit records on the platform; and
- b) periodically reviewing credit records by the financial institution for buyer credit availability.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of linking at least two users comprises the steps of:

- 15 a) creating offers by the vendor;
- b) sending the offers to an offer database on the platform for storage;
- c) comparing the offer database with the user profiles in the profile database;
- 20 d) creating a list of matching offers and user profiles; and
- e) offering users those offers that match the user's profile upon login.

17. A method of electronic factoring, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform;
- b) verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing platform;
- 5 c) verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to make a purchase;
- d) subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit limit upon making a verified purchase;
- e) notifying the vendor of the purchase order;
- 10 f) reassigning the receivable to a guaranteeing financial institution via the guaranteeing platform;
- g) billing the buyer for the purchase order; and
- h) forwarding payment to the vendor.

15 18. An electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables, said system comprising:

- an electronic platform;
- a profile database upon the electronic platform for inputting information from users;
- 20 means for assigning buyers a credit limit; and
- means for guaranteeing payment to vendors for users who purchase from the vendor.

19. The electronic factoring system of claim 18 wherein said means for guaranteeing payment to vendors comprises means for aligning the platform with a guaranteeing financial institution for the guaranteeing financial institution to perform a factoring-type selected from the group of factoring-types consisting of credit insuring, full-factoring, and lending.

20. An electronic factoring system for guaranteeing payment of receivables, said system comprising:

means for assigning buyers a credit limit upon a guaranteeing platform;

means for verifying the buyer's identification as a member of the guaranteeing

5 platform;

means for verifying the buyer's credit amount when the buyer attempts to make a purchase;

means for subtracting the purchase amount from the buyer's available credit limit upon making a verified purchase;

10 means for notifying the vendor of the purchase order;

means for reassigning the receivable to a guaranteeing financial institution via the guaranteeing platform;

means for billing the buyer for the purchase order; and

means for forwarding payment to the vendor.

ELECTRONIC FACTORING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is a method and system for electronic factoring. An electronic platform is provided for guaranteeing payment of receivables. Information from users is input into a profile database upon the electronic platform and is accessible by all users. The buyers are assigned a credit limit and are able to purchase from vendors within that credit limit. The payments for these purchases are guaranteed by a guaranteeing financial institution which is aligned with the platform.

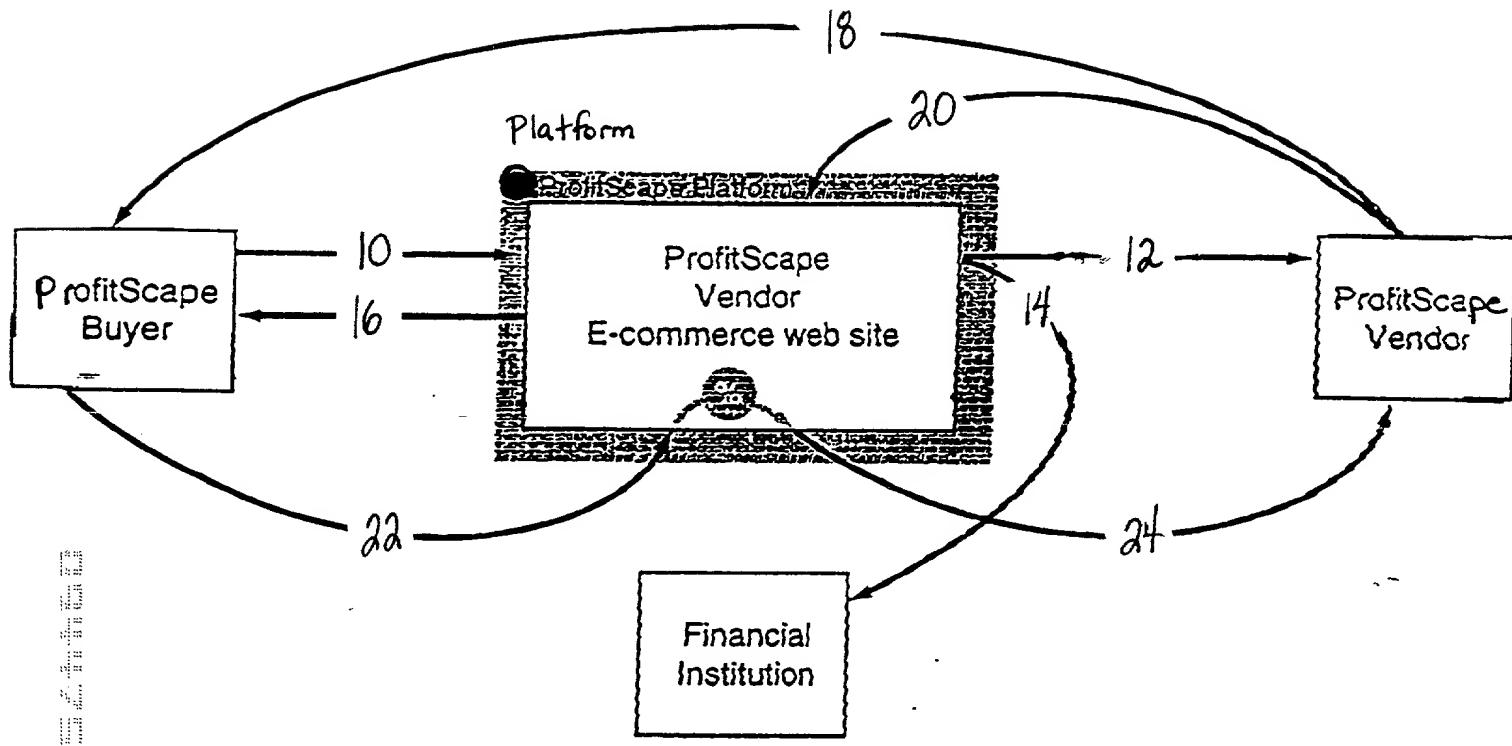


Fig. 1

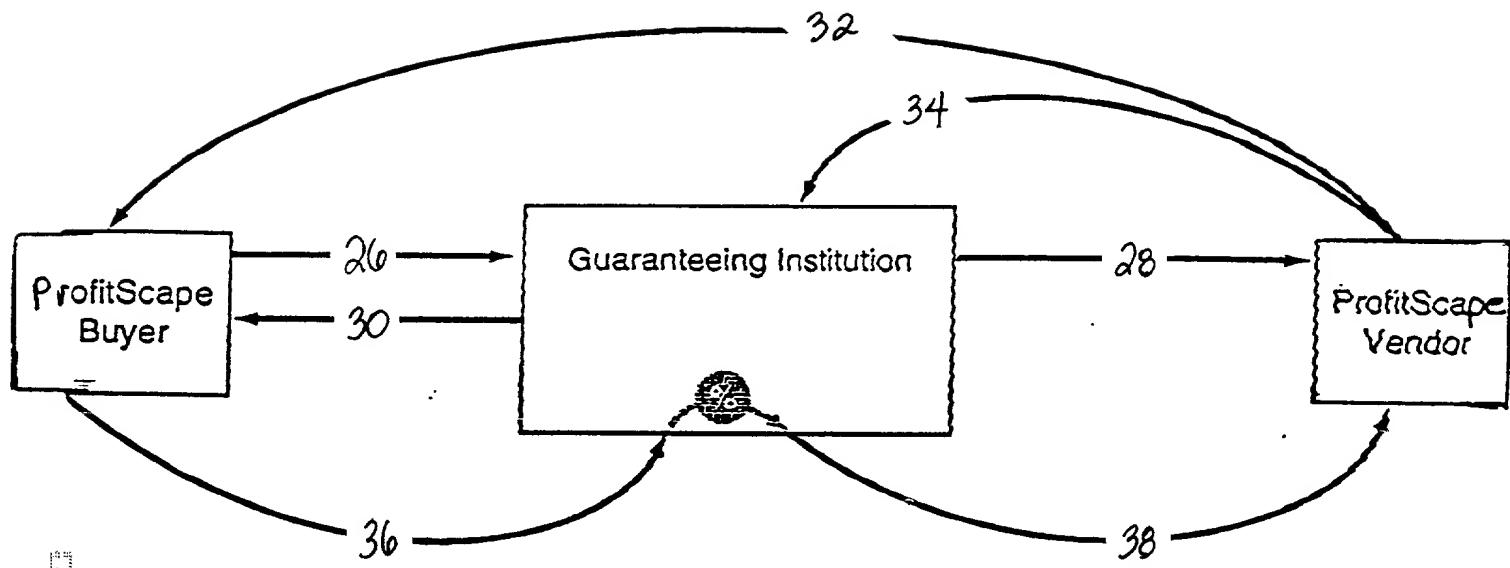


Fig. 2

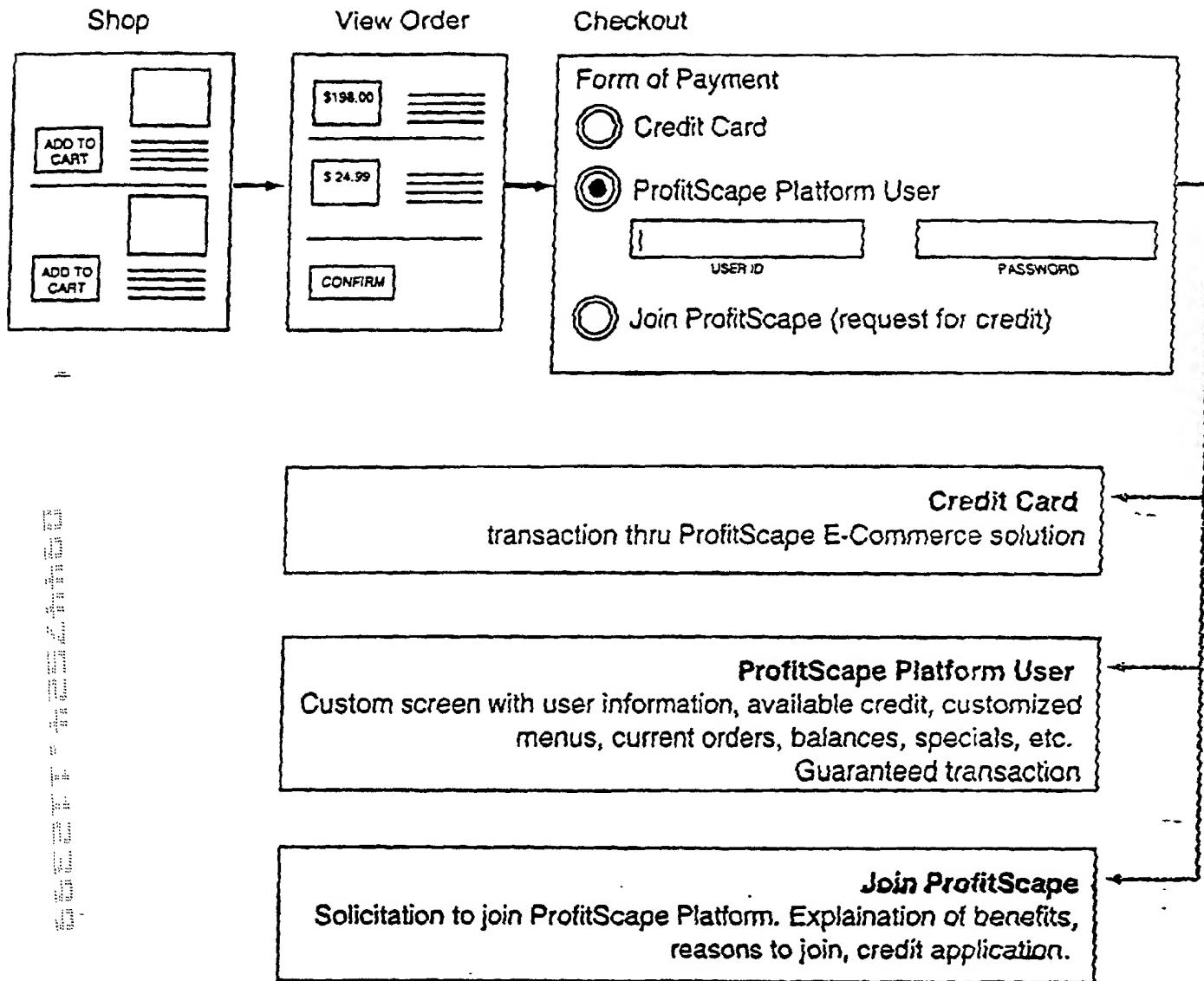


Fig. 3

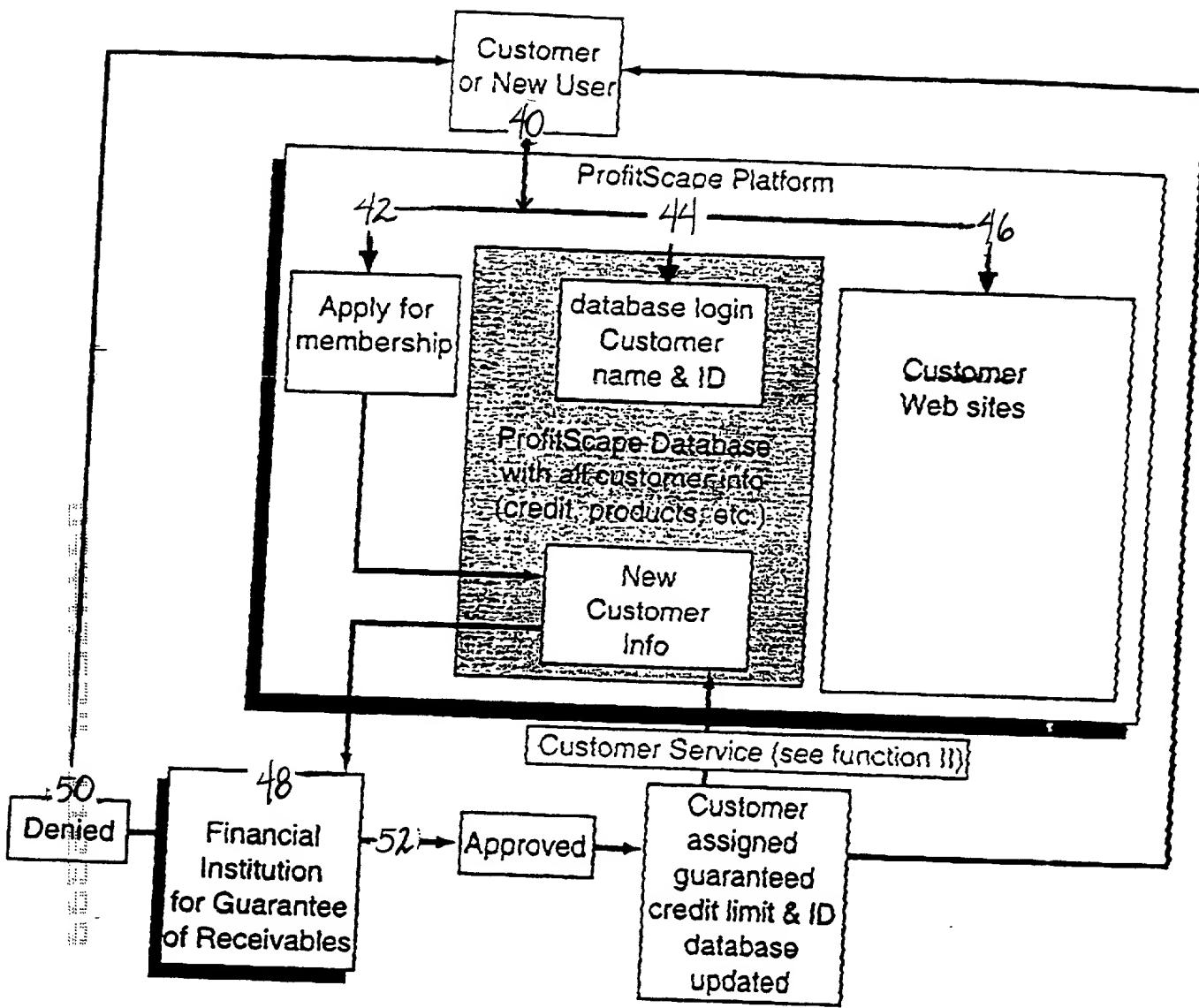


Fig. 4

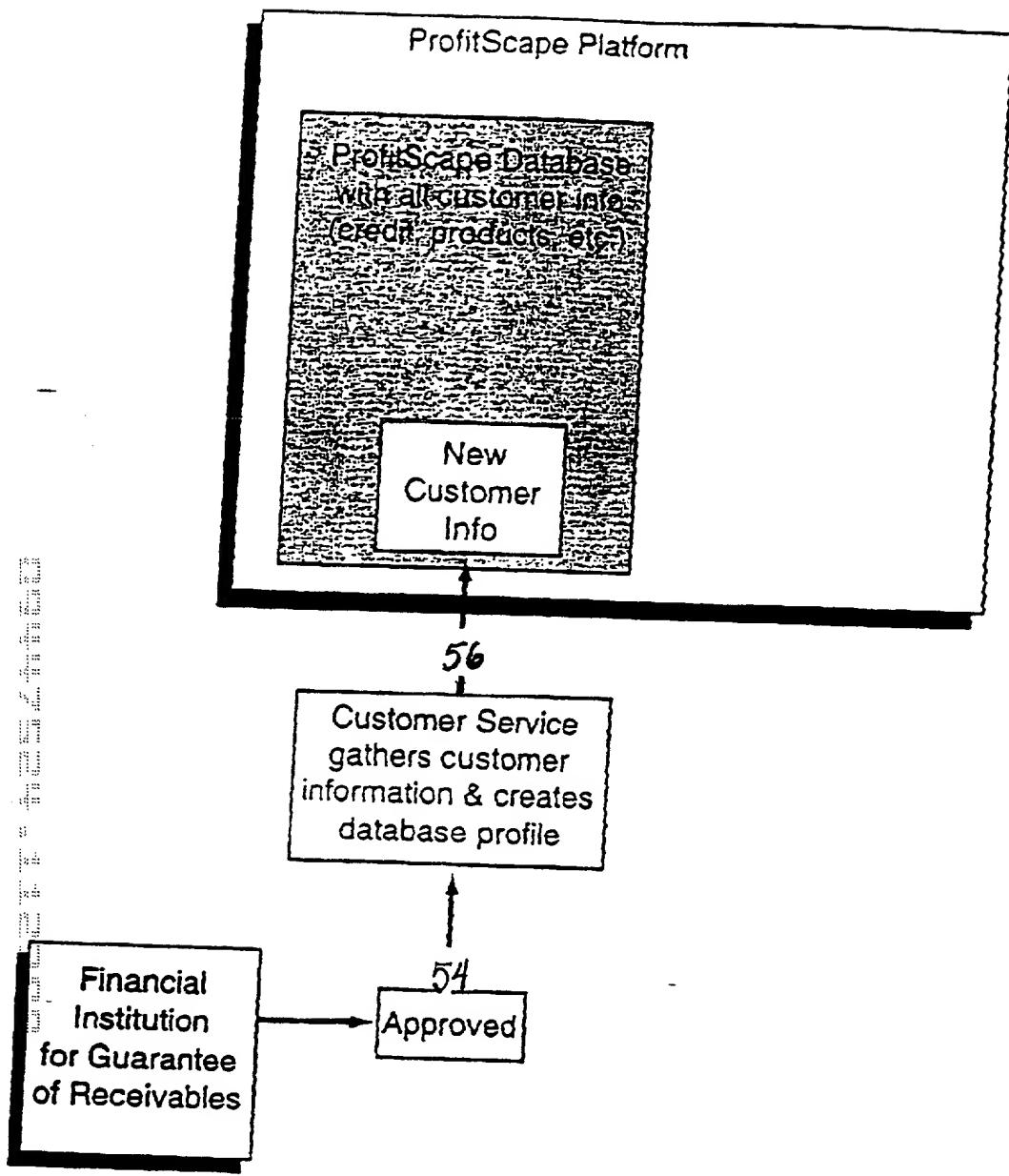


Fig. 5

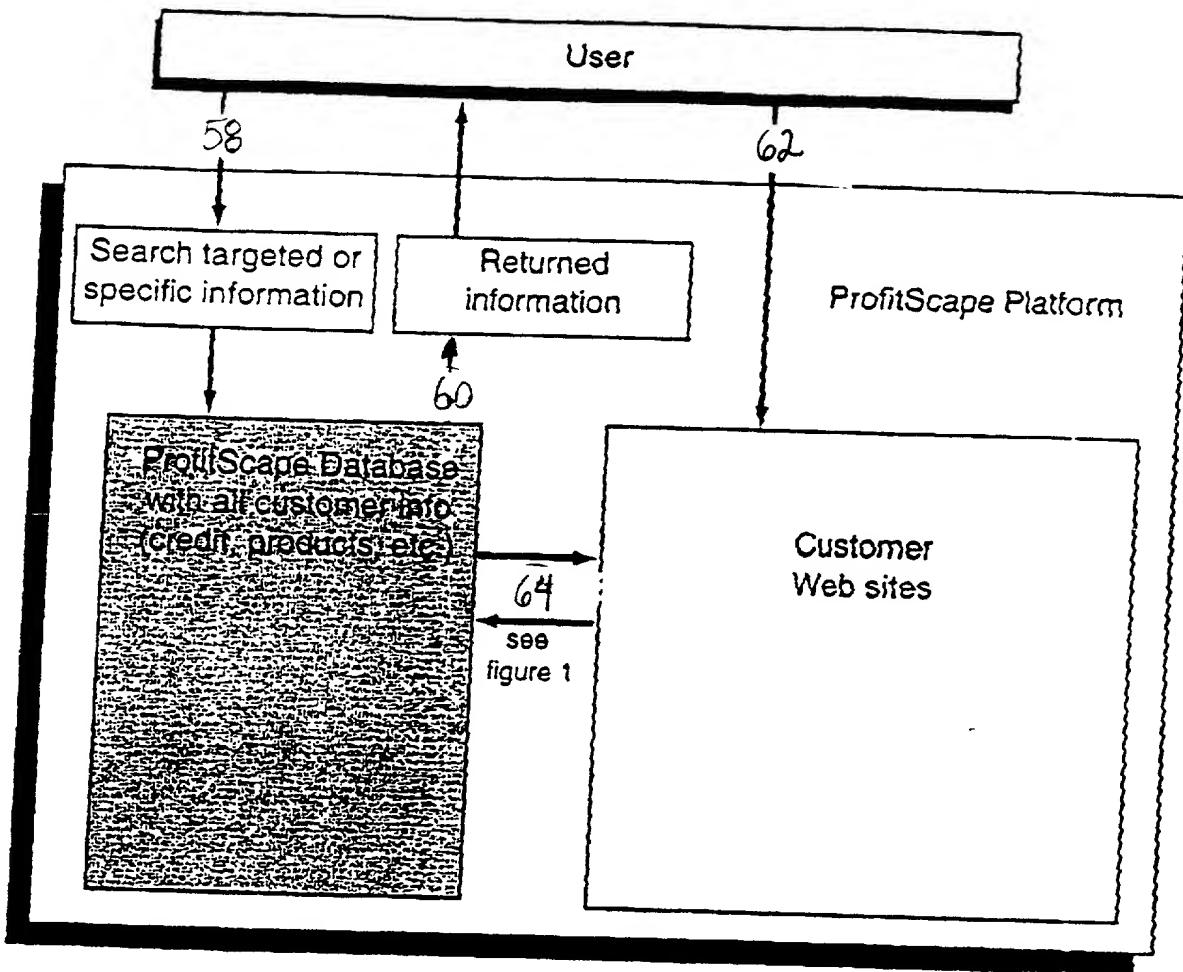


Fig. 6

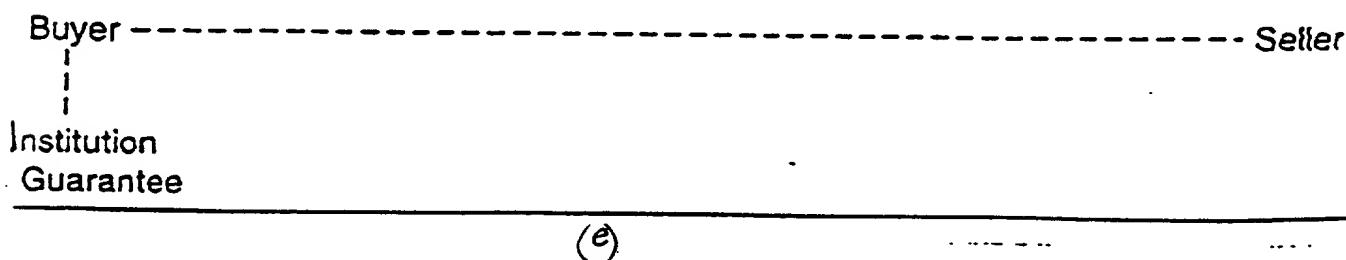
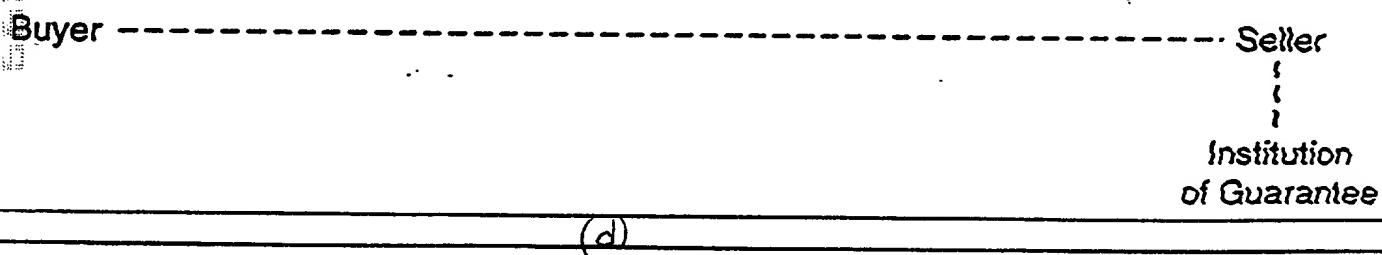
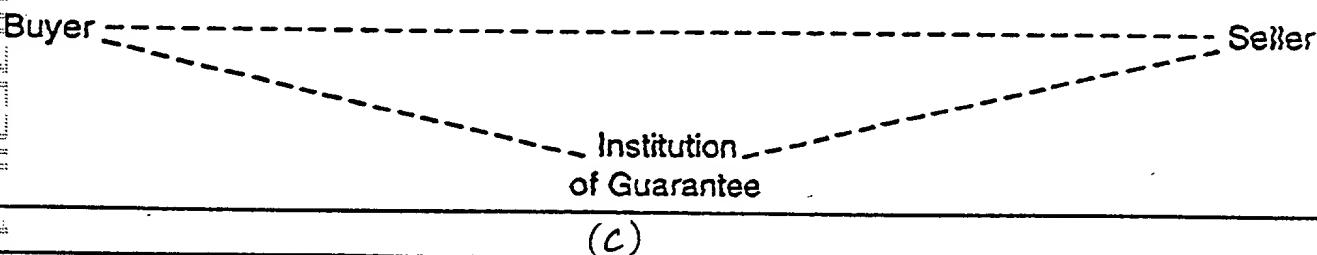
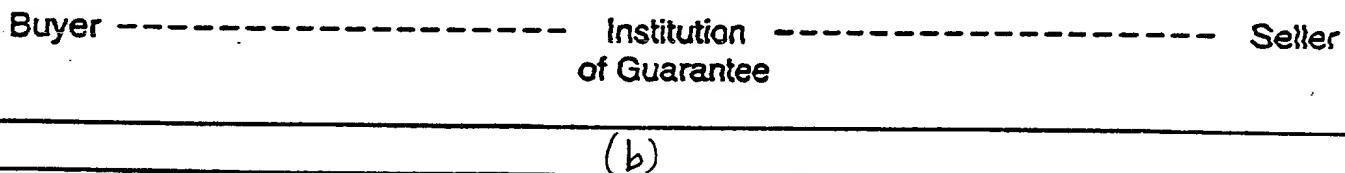
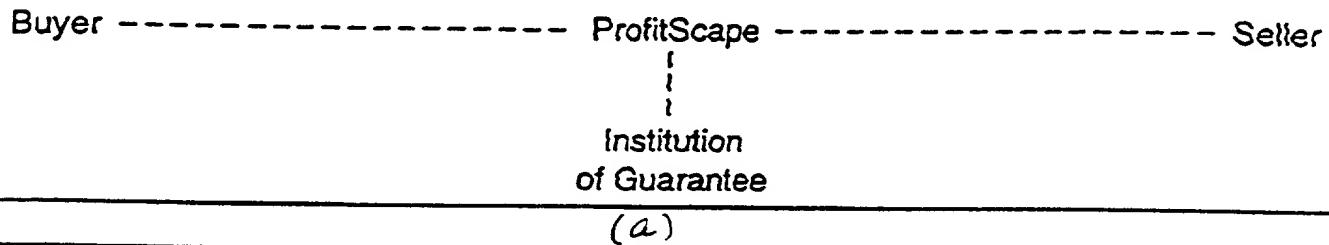


Fig. 7

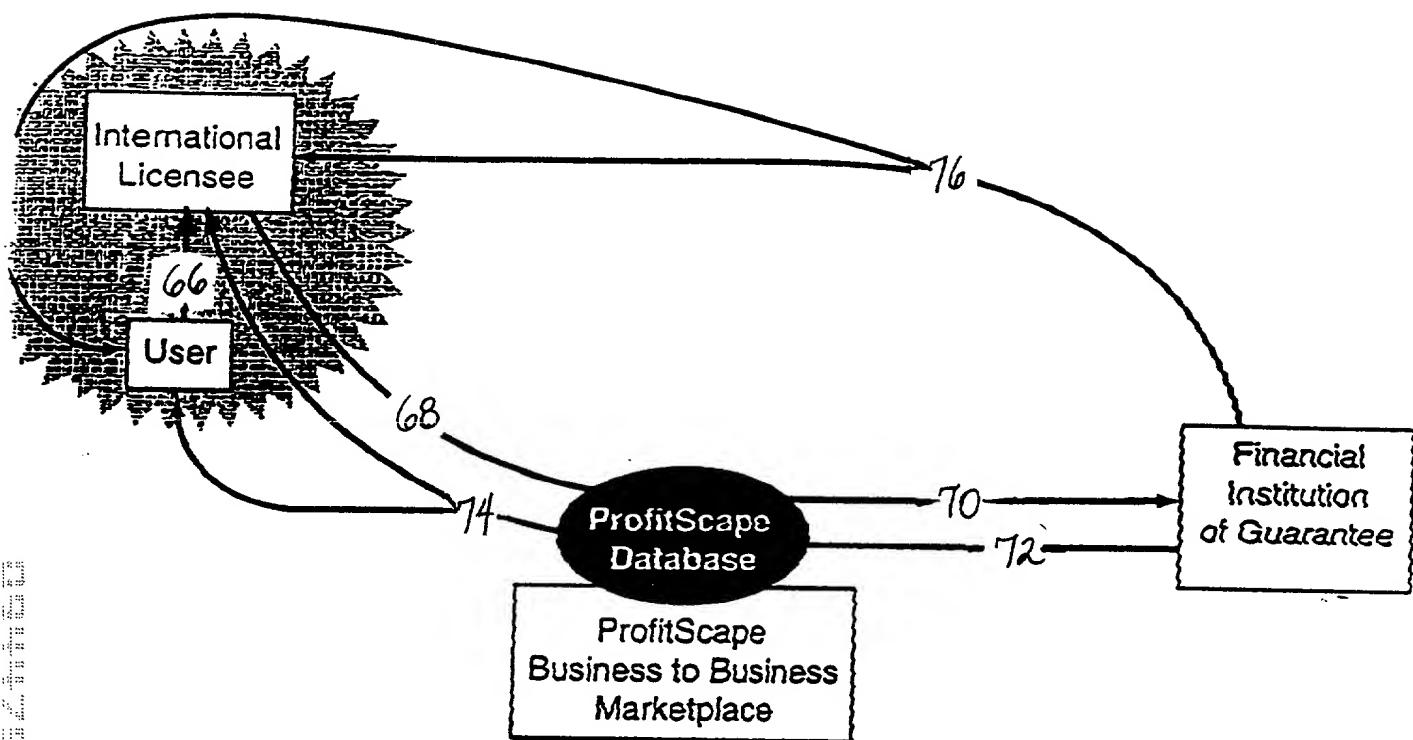


Fig. 8

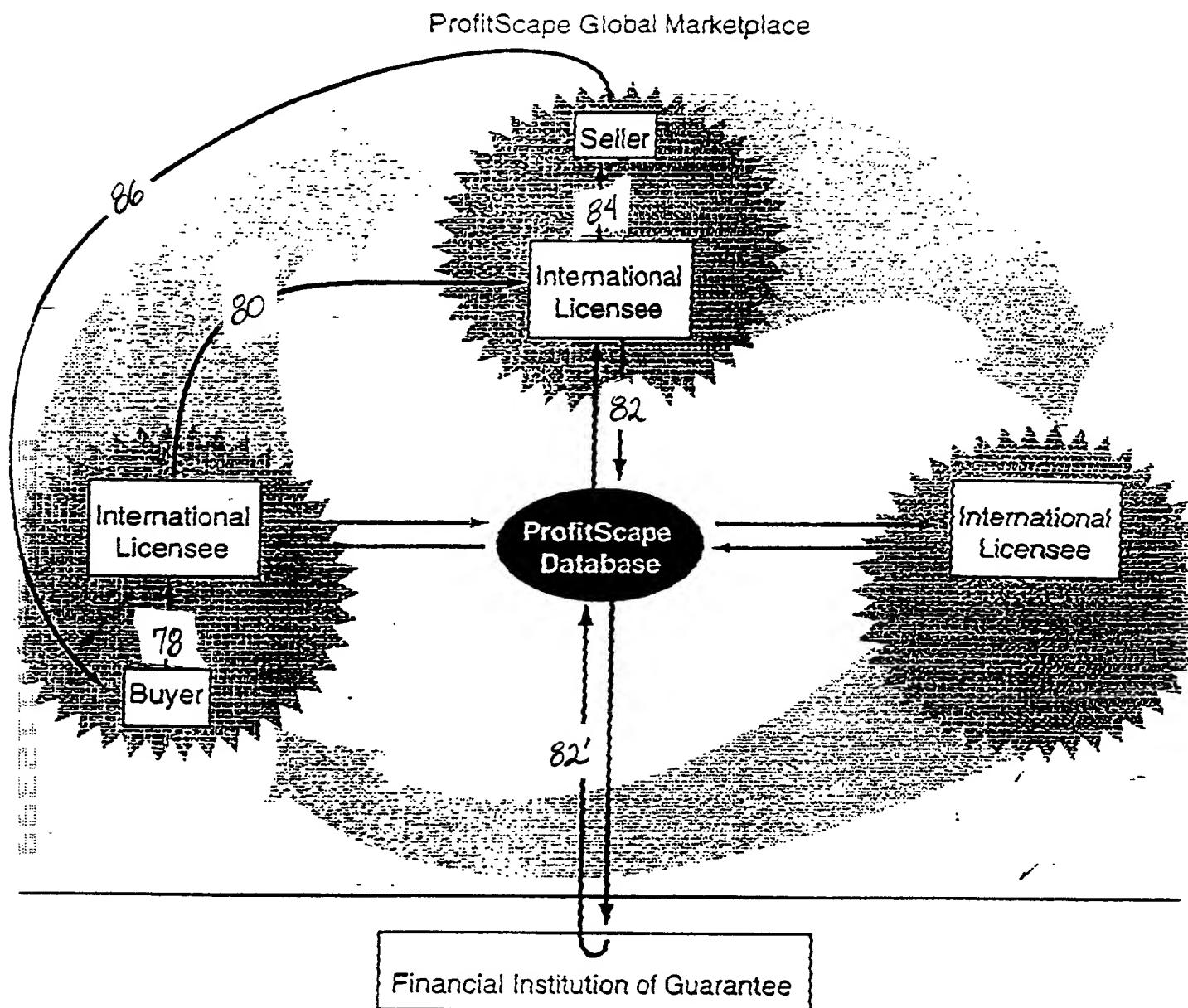


Fig. 9

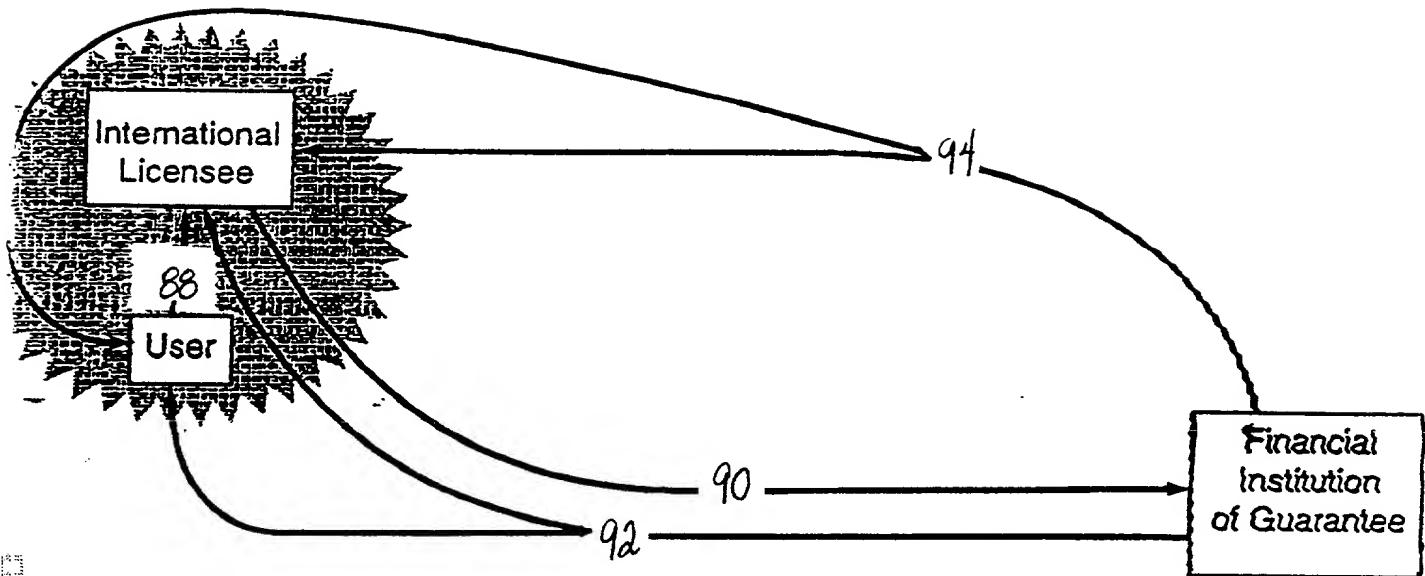


Fig. 10

ProfitScape Global Marketplace

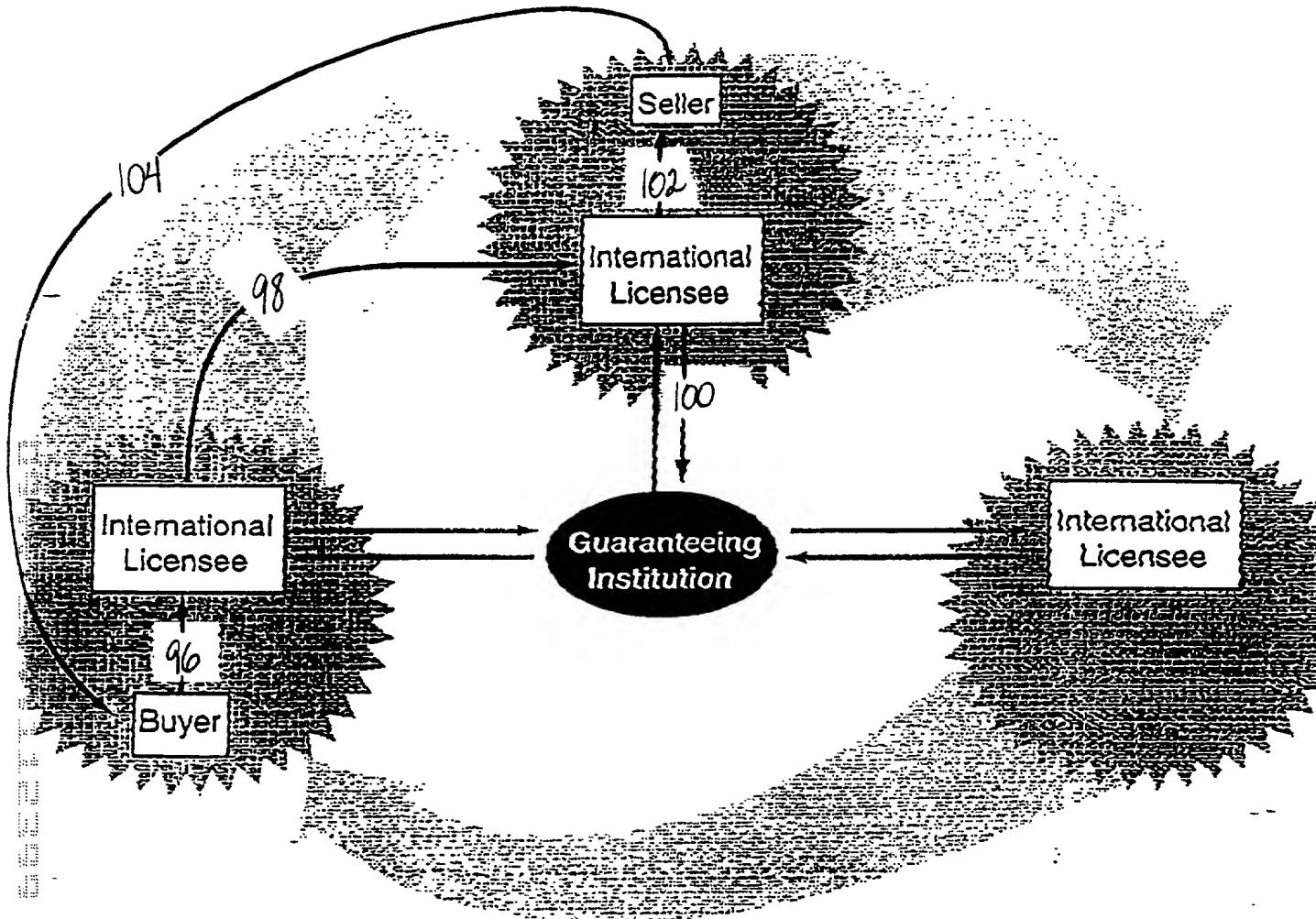


Fig. 11

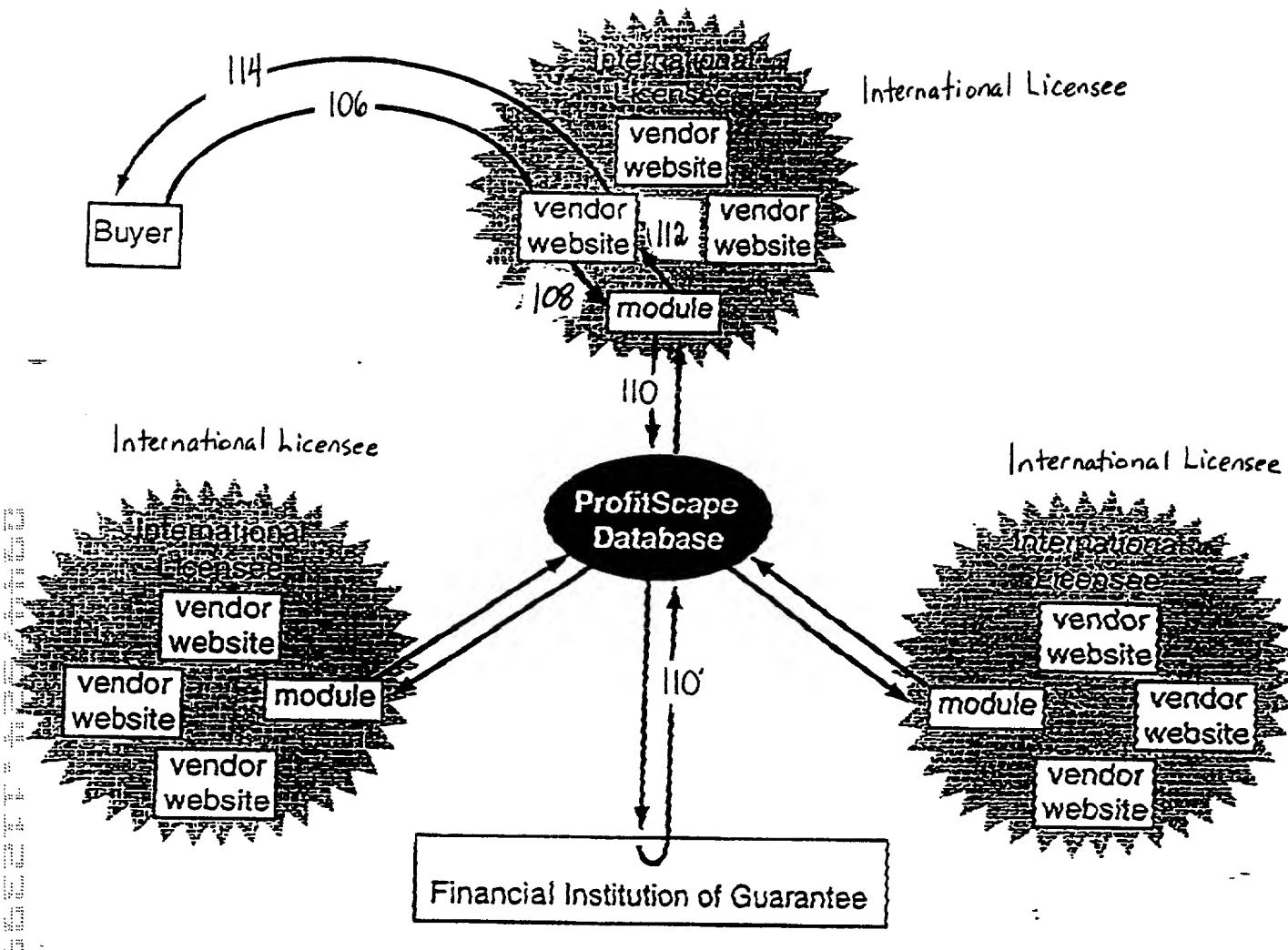


Fig. 12

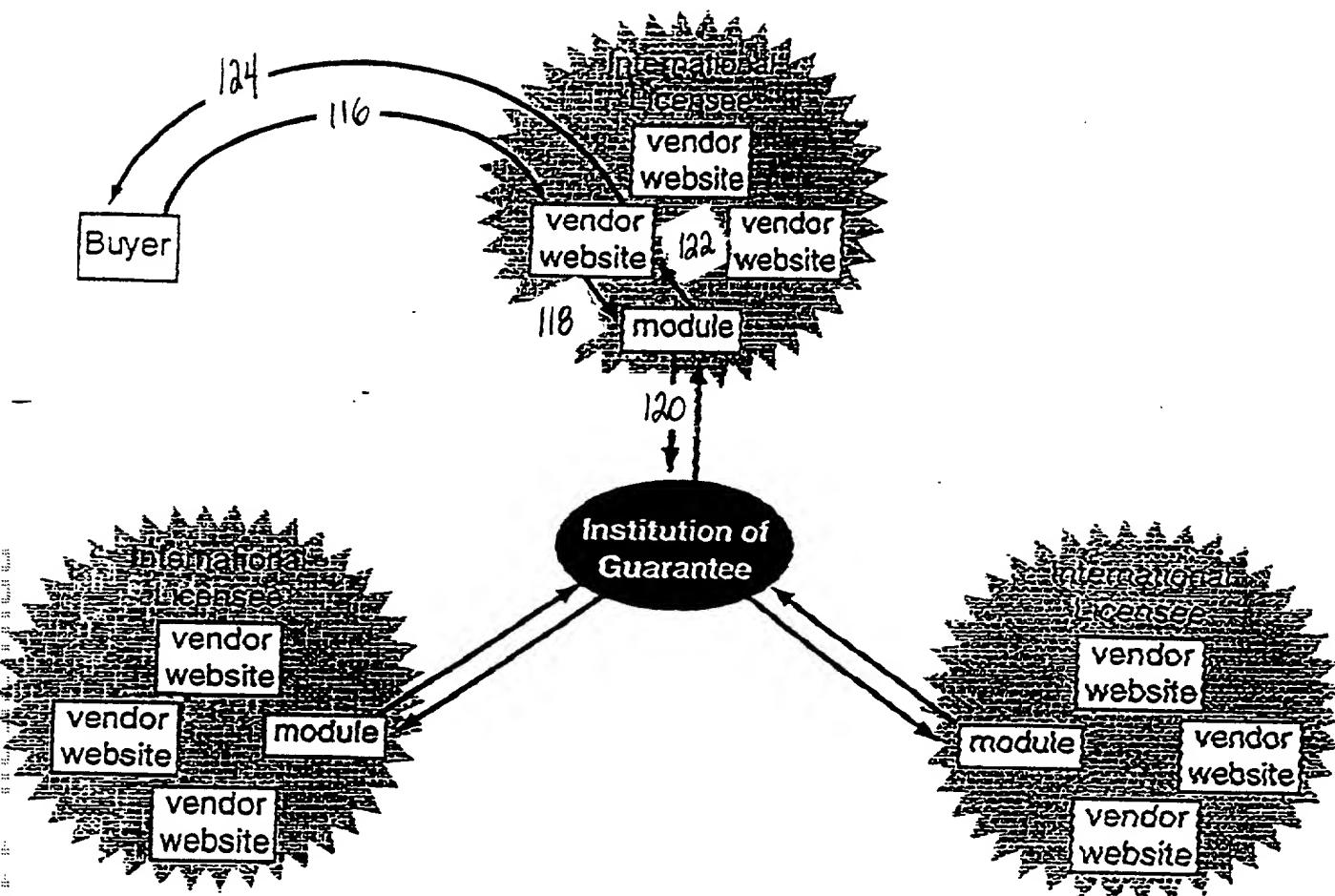


Fig. 13

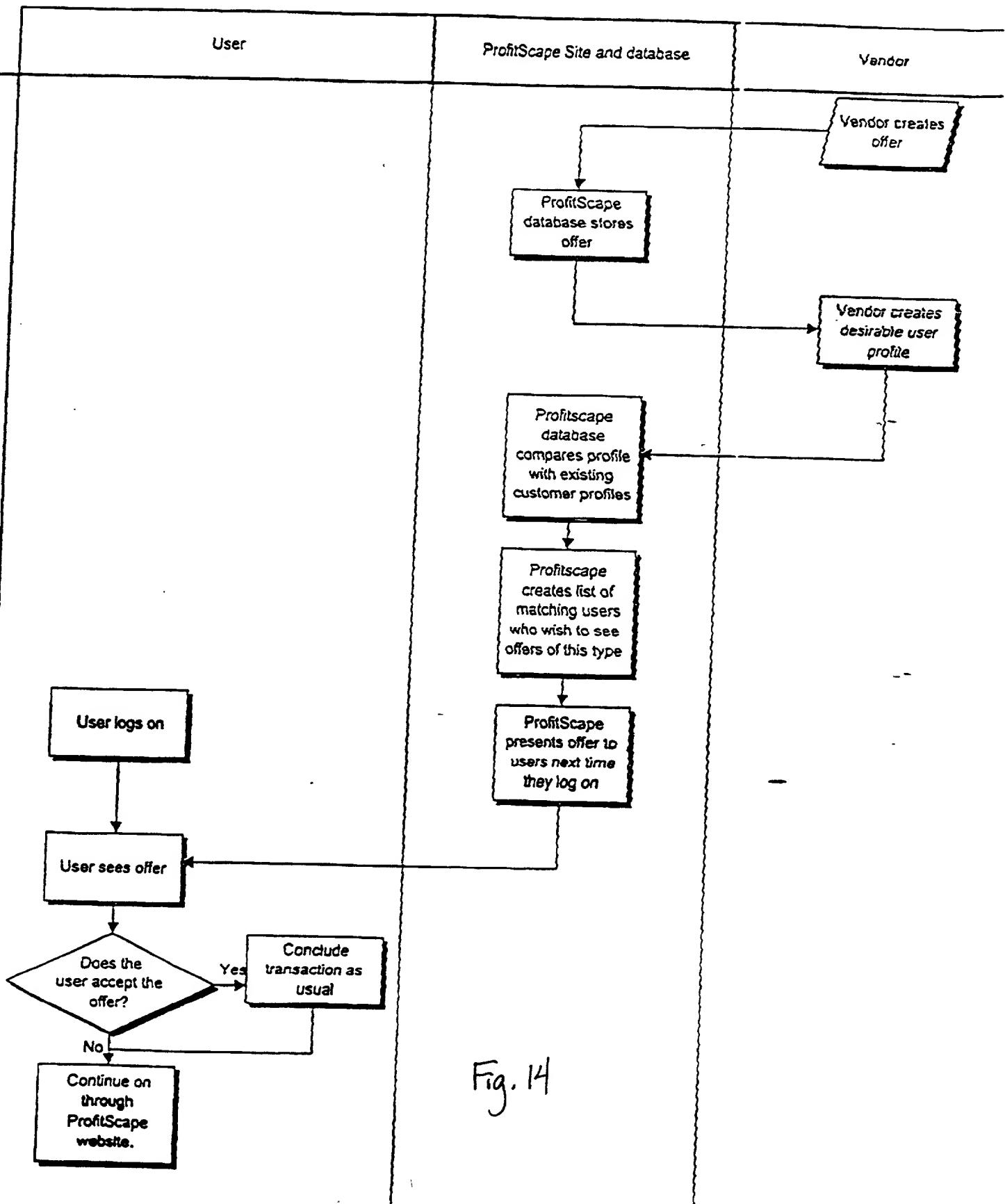
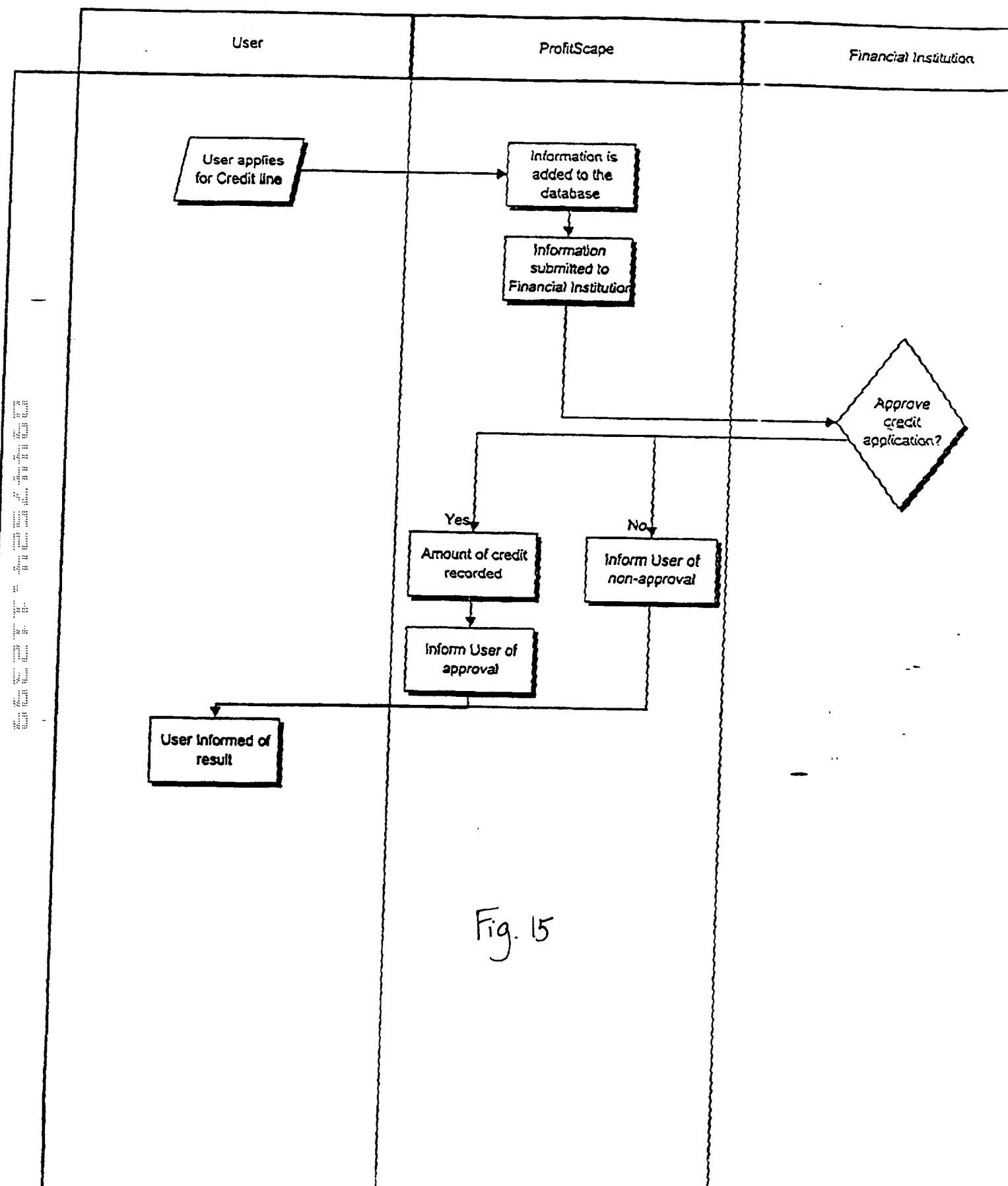
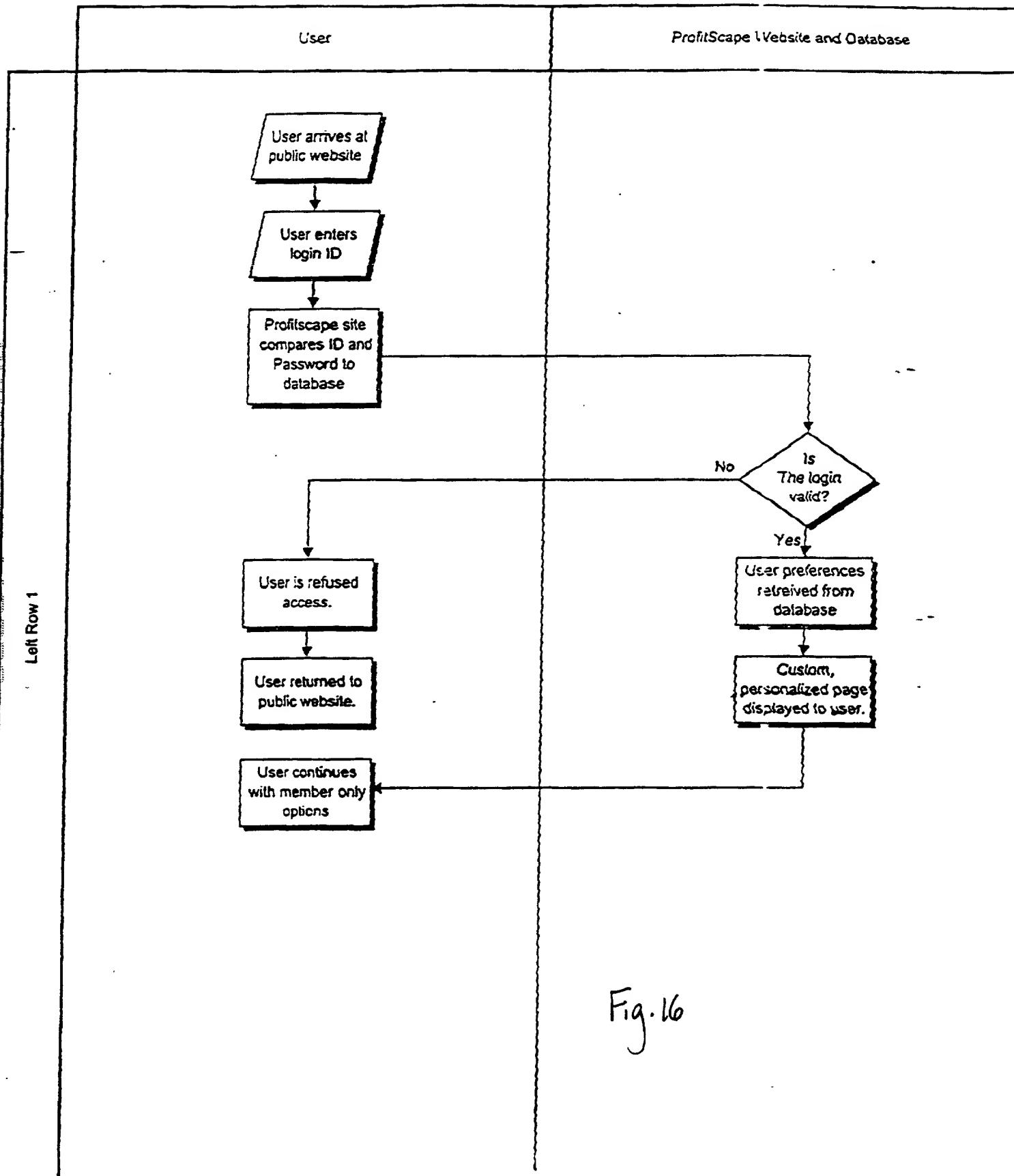


Fig. 14





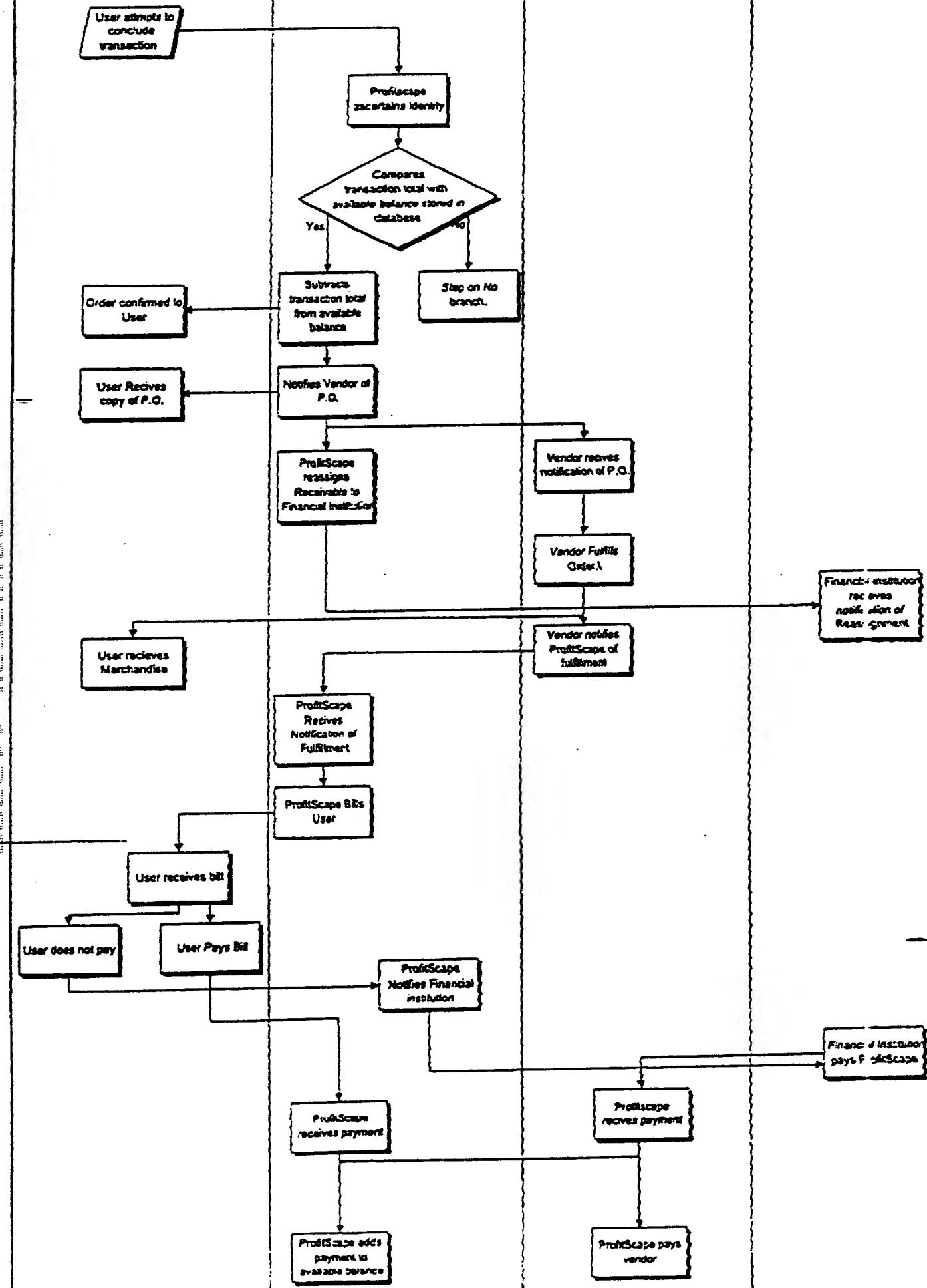


Fig. 17

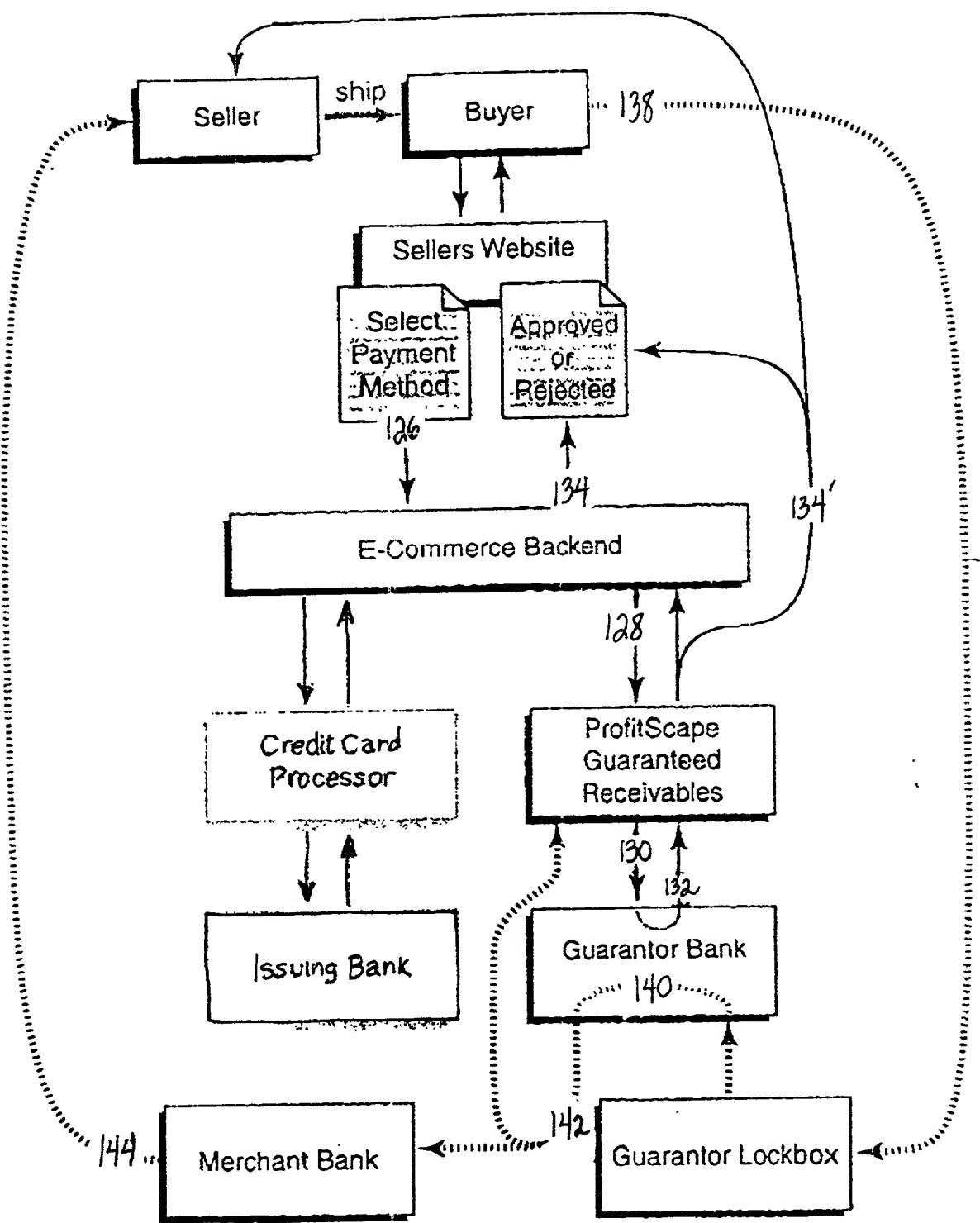


Fig. 18

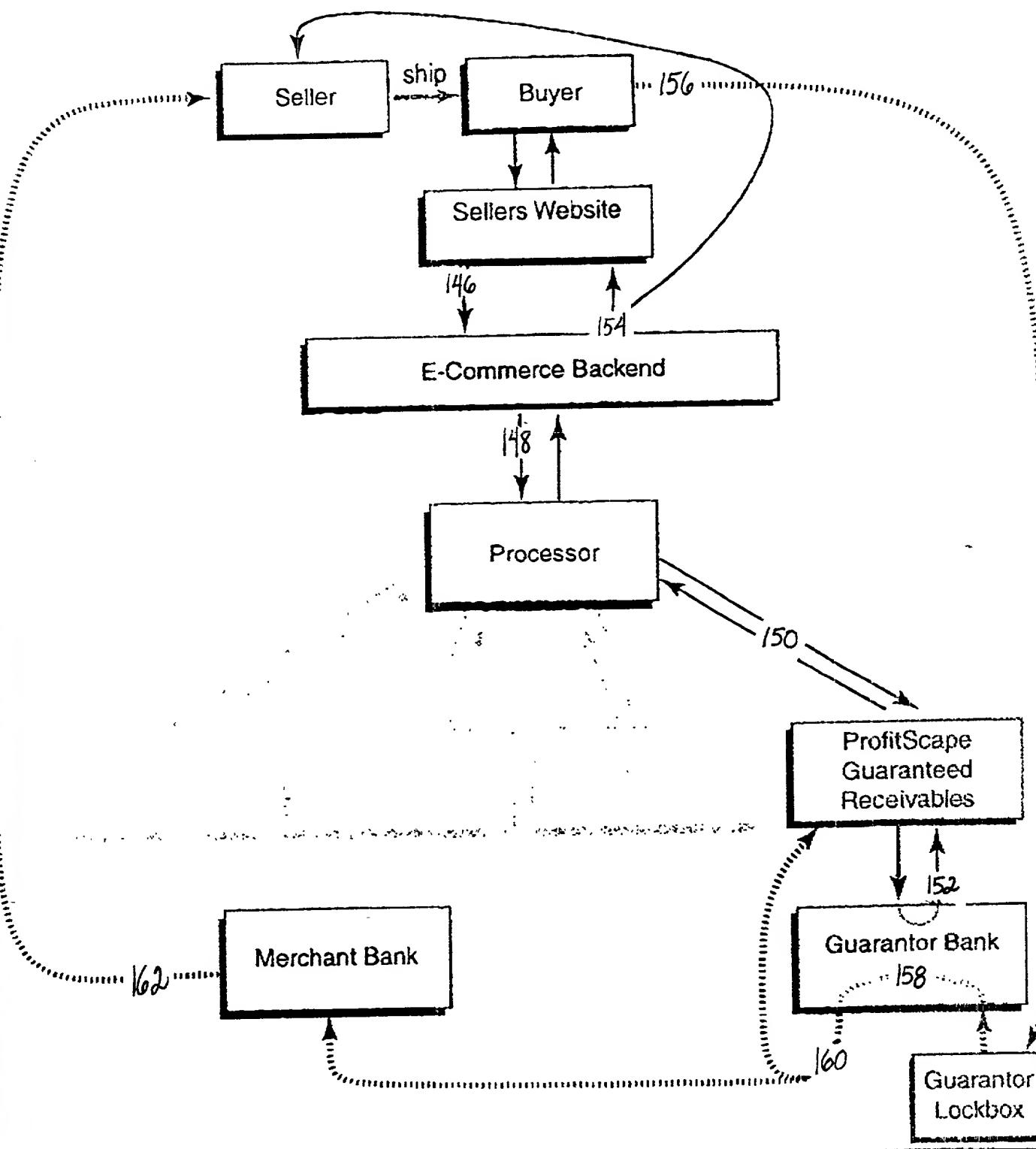


Fig. 19

User login to Profitscape Site

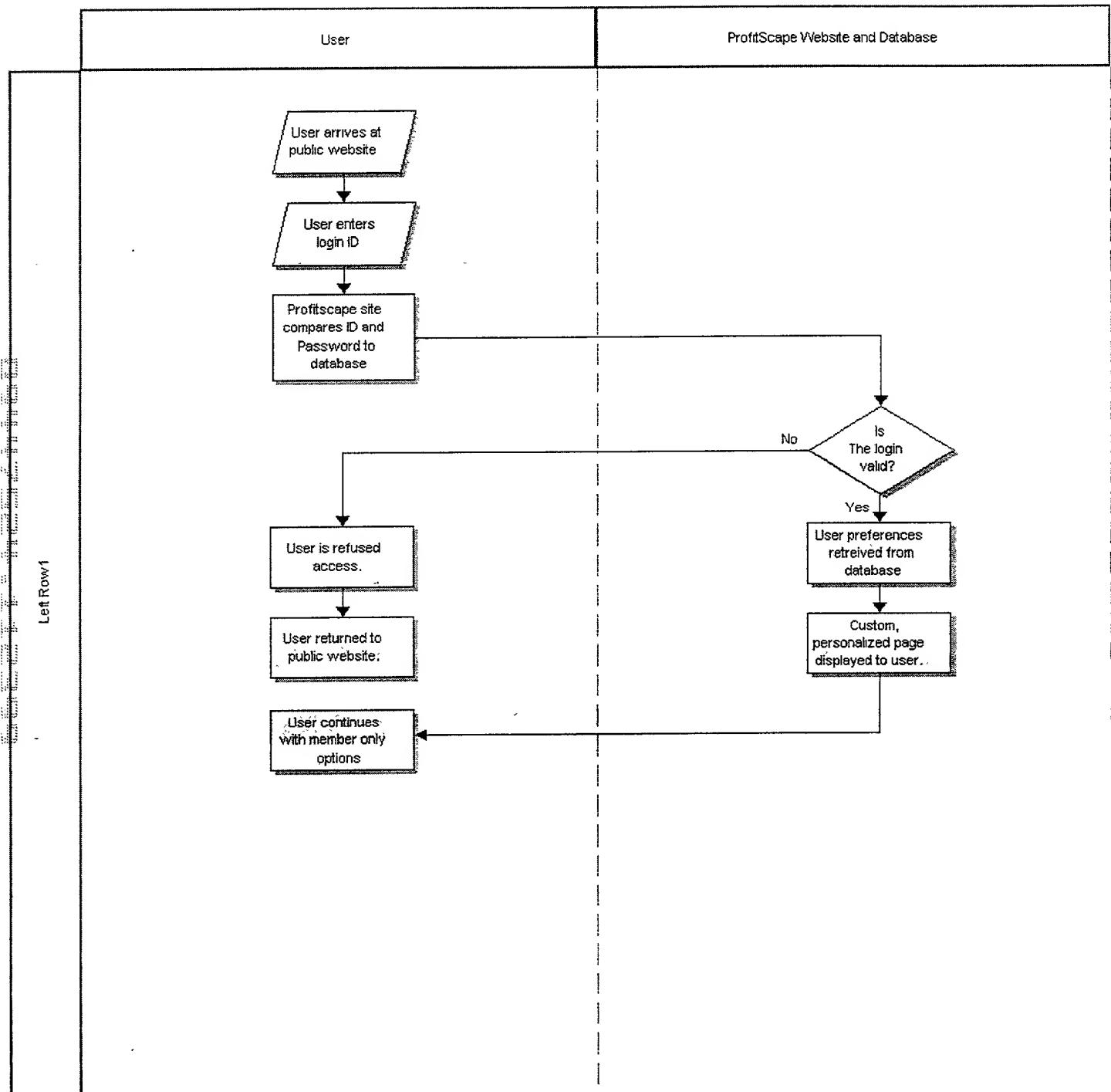


Fig. 20

User Makes Purchase

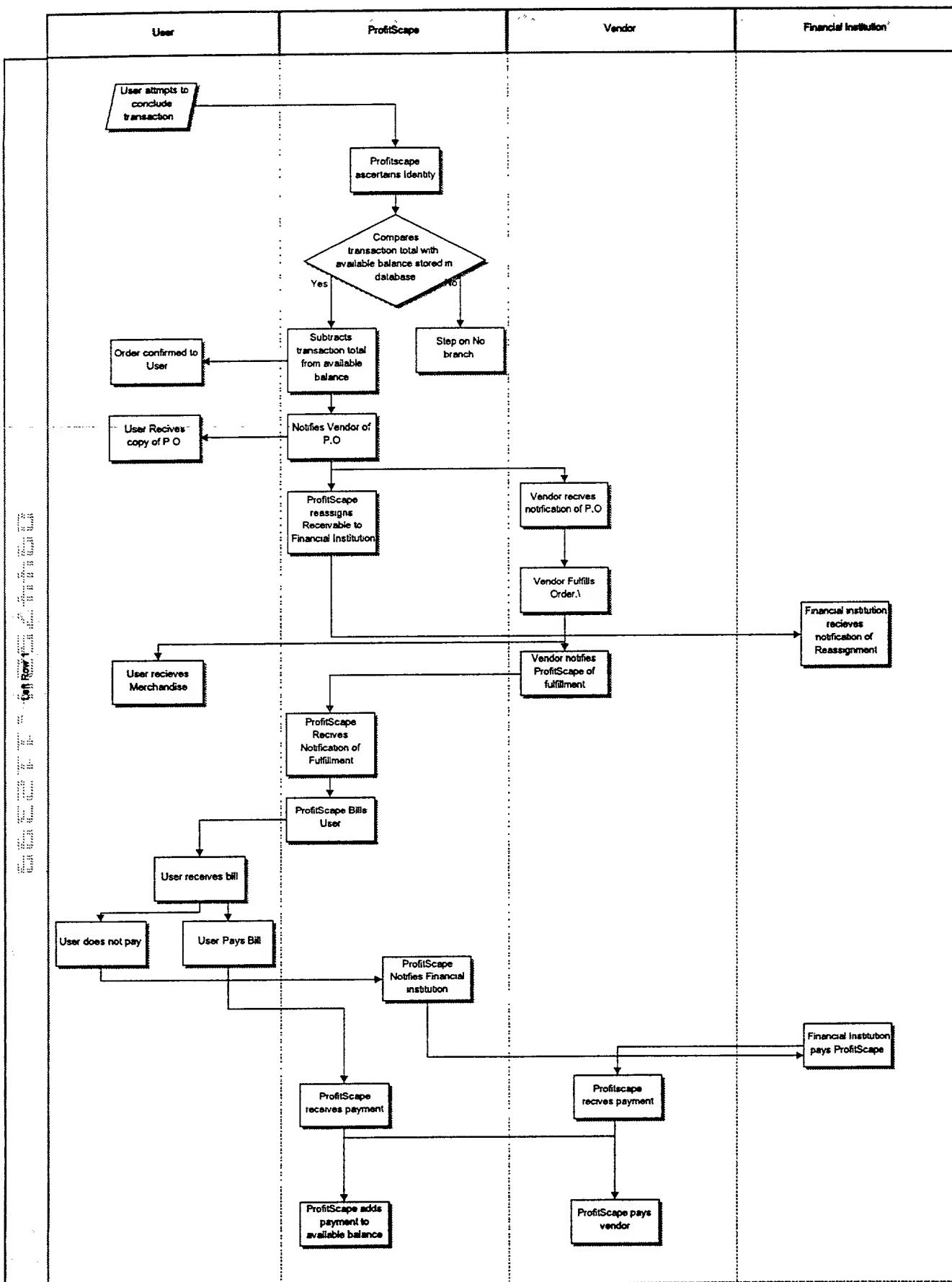
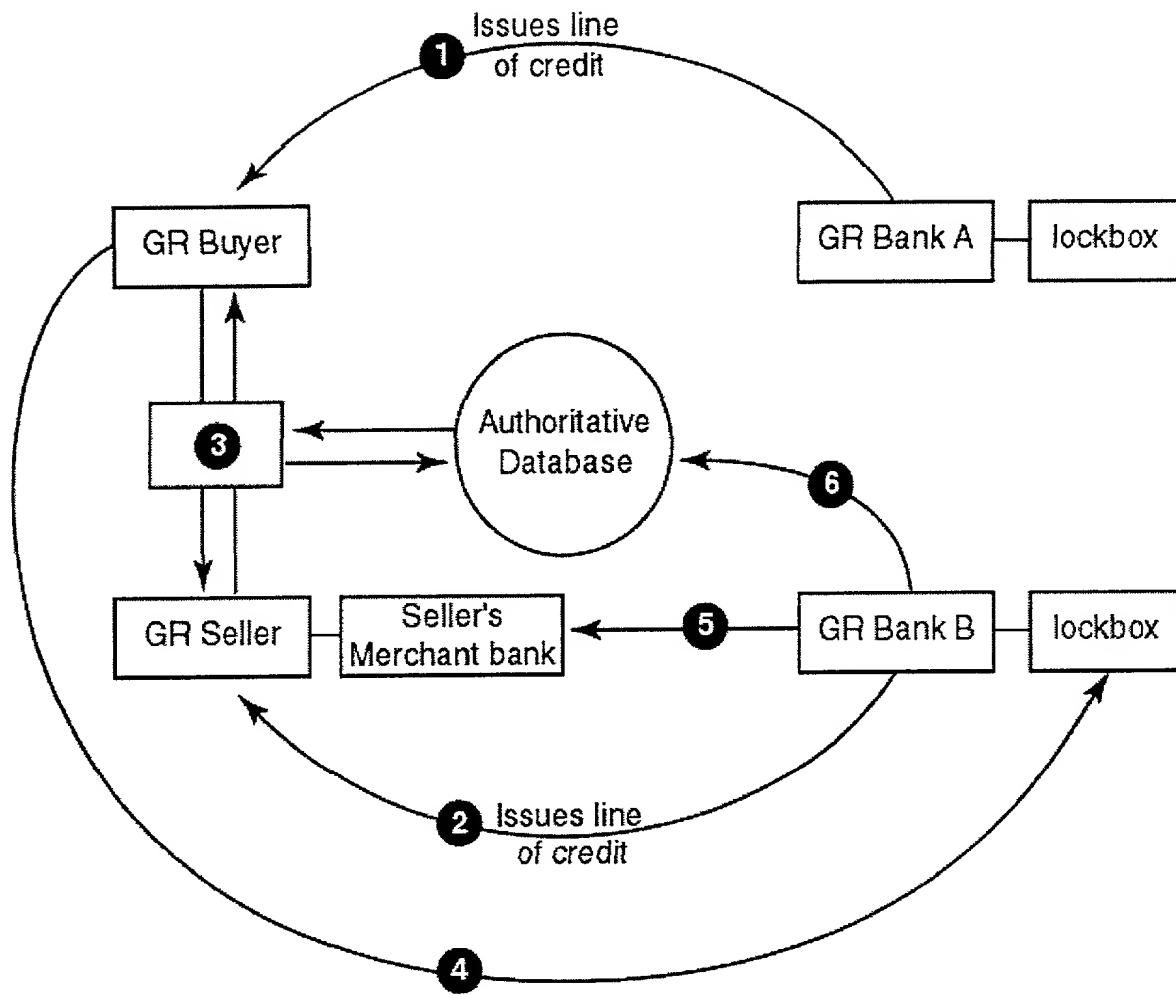


Fig. 21



1. Bank A issues line of credit to buyer and guarantees receivables.
2. Bank B issues line of credit to seller and guarantees receivables.
3. Buyer makes purchase from Seller available credit is checked and approved/denied.
4. Buyer makes payment into lockbox of Bank B
5. Bank B makes payment to Seller's Merchant bank
6. Bank B updates Authoritative Database of payment and available credit limit is adjusted.

F_r, 22

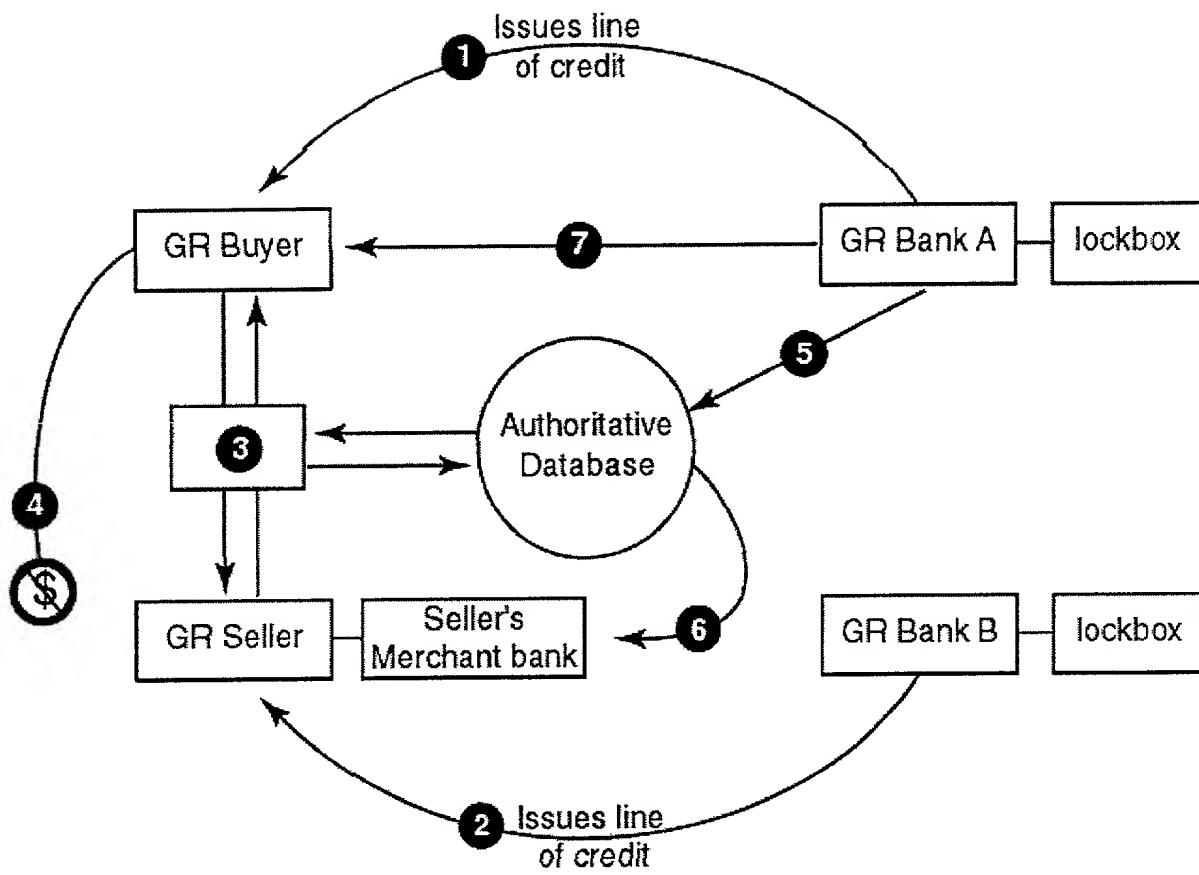


Fig. 23

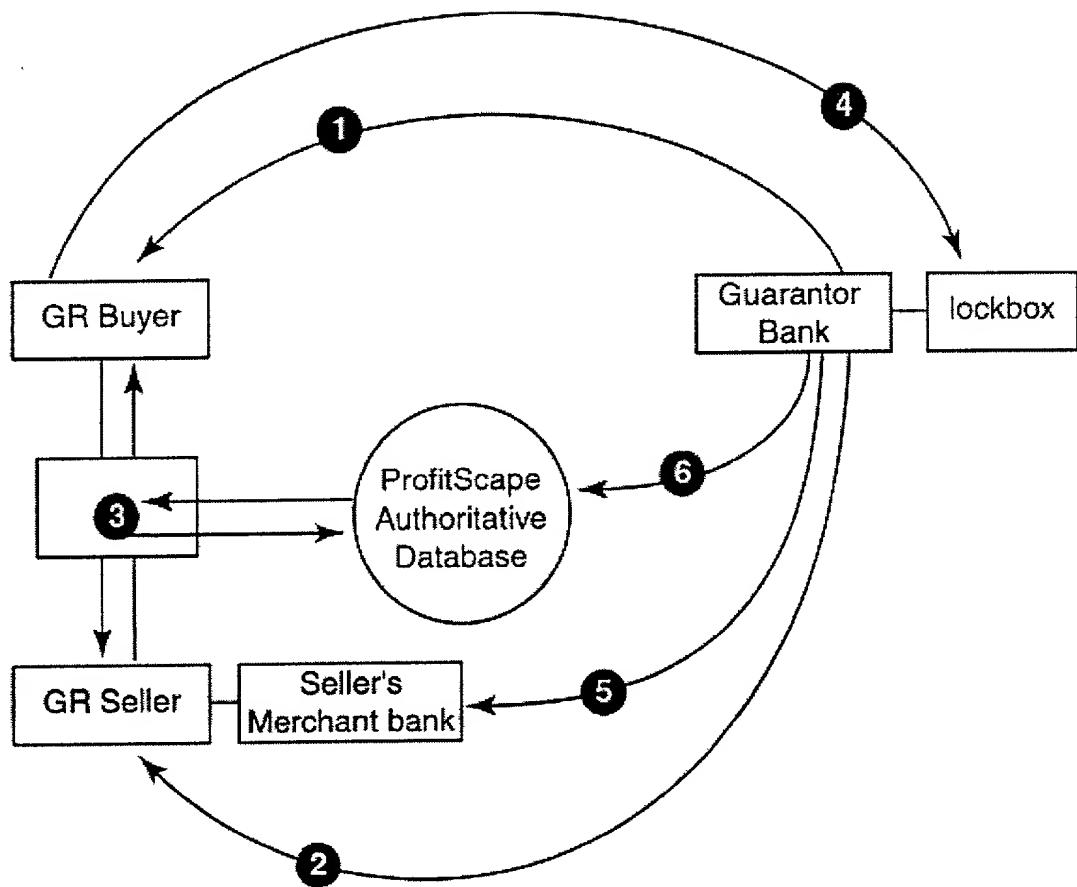


Fig. 24

Approval Screen

Back Forward Reload

Home Search

Guide

Images

Print

Security

Stop



Netsite:



ProfitScape

GUARANTEE YOUR RECEIVABLES

ENTER YOUR USER ID

1 ENTER PASSWORD

ENTER

RETAIL WEB STORES

WHOLESALE WEB STORES

LIST ALPHABETICALLY

YOUR COMPANY INTERNATIONAL

25448 Costanza Blvd. Suite 800
Chicago, IL 65330

Enter Card Number, Expiration date and Amount below then "VERIFY"

Net30 Card Number

6526-7166-9170

Expiration Date

06/2003

Amount

\$ 4300.00

Purchase Order (optional)

PO 8996492

2

VERIFY

Company	Card Number	Amount	PO#
PHILLYBUSTER DESIGNS 167 Darth Drive Wallawalla WA 38115	PS 6526-7166-9170 exp. 06/2003	\$ 4,300.00	8996492
JACKSON-HILL 9534 Bilster Ave. Wallawalla WI 55143	PS 9926-5846-3496 exp. 08/2002	\$ 6,766.00	EDIT
GRAVITON SYSTEMS 4441 Beanieprop Blvd. Wallawalla AL 57662	PS 9354-3352-1774 exp. 12/2003	\$12,800.00	44131
SUZIE'S BOUTIQUE 5813 Mall Ridge Wallawalla AZ 38115	PS 6526-7166-9170 exp. 06/2003	\$ 500.00	EDIT

When finished click on "Please Approve" for Approval Codes
on the selected orders above

3

PLEASE APPROVE

To edit records enter

Company Name

4

or Approval Code

PS74355

SEARCH



<http://135.145.16.61:80/market/index.htm>



F3. 25

Approval Screen



Netsite:



ProfitScape

GUARANTEE YOUR RECEIVABLES

ENTER YOUR USER ID

ENTER

RETAIL WEB STORES

WHOLESALE WEB STORES

LIST ALPHABETICALLY

YOUR COMPANY INTERNATIONAL

25448 Costanza Blvd. Suite 800
Chicago, IL 65330

Results for your request have been processed.

Company	Amount	Approval Code
PHILLYBUSTER DESIGNS 167 Daith Drive Wallawalla WA 38115	\$ 4,300.00	Approved - PS74355
JACKSON-HILL 9534 Blister Ave. Wallawalla WI 55143	\$ 6,766.00	Approved - PS64288
GRAVITON SYSTEMS 4441 Beanieprop Blvd. Wallawalla AL 57662	\$12,800.00	DENIED - Over credit limit
SUZIE'S BOUTIQUE 5813 Mall Ridge Wallawalla AZ 38115	\$ 500.00	Approved - PS11298

DONE



Fig. 26

Edit Screen



Netsite:



GUARANTEE YOUR RECEIVABLES

ENTER YOUR USER ID

ENTER PASSWORD

ENTER

RETAIL WEB STORES

WHOLESALE WEB STORES

LIST ALPHABETICALLY

YOUR COMPANY INTERNATIONAL

25448 Costanza Blvd. Suite 800
Chicago, IL 65330

EDIT TRANSACTION RECORD

Company	Card Number	Amount	PO#
PHILLYBUSTER DESIGNS 167 Darth Drive Wallawalla WA 38115	PS 6526-7166-9170 exp. 06/2003	\$ 2,500.00	8996492

When finished click on "Recalculate Approval" for
new Approval Code.
Previous Approval Code will no longer be valid.

RECALCULATE APPROVAL

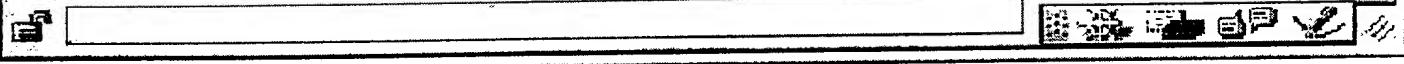
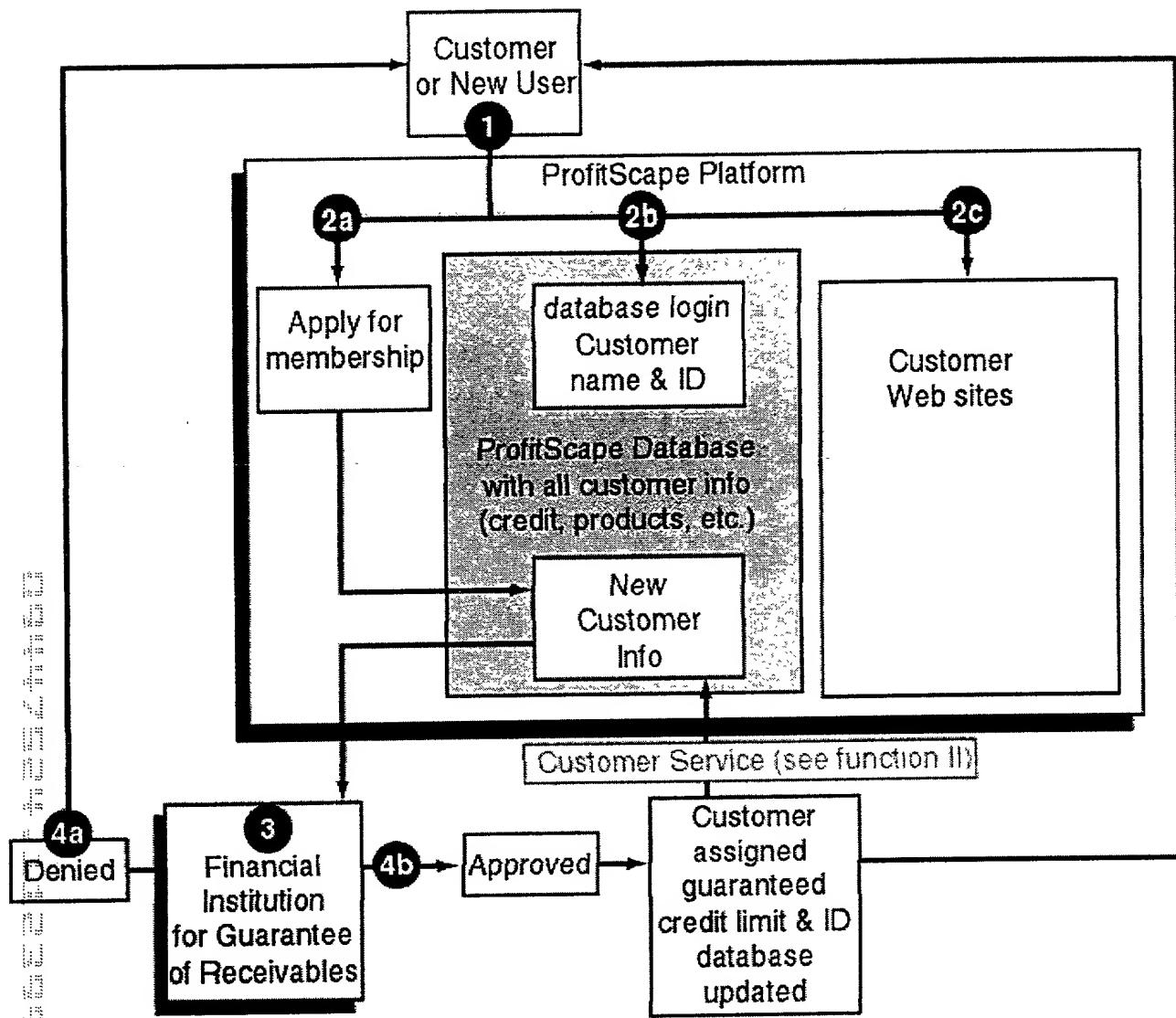


Fig. 27



1. Existing Customer or New User visits ProfitScape web site
- 2a. New User Applies for membership and line of credit with guaranteed receivables
- 2b. Existing Customer logs in with user name and password
- 2c. Existing Customer or New User goes to ProfitScape Platform Web sites
3. Application for credit and guarantees forwarded to financial institution for review.
- 4a. Application for credit denied-Customer notified
- 4b. Application for credit approved-Customer assigned guaranteed credit limit and ID and entered into database

Fig. 28

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL,
CONTINUATION, OR C-I-P)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type:

(check one applicable item below)

- original.
- design.
- supplemental.

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- national stage of PCT.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P.

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d) (continued prosecution application) for use of a prior nonprovisional application declaration in the continuation or divisional application being filed on behalf of the same or fewer of the inventors named in the prior application.

- divisional.
- continuation.

NOTE: Where an application discloses and claims subject matter not disclosed in the prior application, or a continuation or divisional application names an inventor not named in the prior application, a continuation-in-part application must be filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (application filing requirements — nonprovisional application).

- continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: *If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims, an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.*

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (*if only one name is listed below*) or an original, first and joint inventor (*if plural names are listed below*) of the subject matter that is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

ELECTRONIC FACTORING

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 1 of 7)

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which:

(complete (a), (b), or (c))

(a) is attached hereto. **UNSIGNED**

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed on the application filing date with a specification are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(1) name of inventor(s), and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration on filing;

"(2) name of inventor(s), and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
or

"(3) name of inventor(s), and title which was on the specification as filed."

Notice of July 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60).

(b) was filed on _____, as Serial No. 0 / _____
or _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO that contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.67.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456);

"(B) serial number and filing date;

"(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

"(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or

"(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 7th Ed.

(c) was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____, filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 2 of 7)

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.67(b))

(complete the following where a supplemental declaration is being submitted)

I hereby declare that the subject matter of the
 attached amendment
 amendment filed on _____

was part of my/our invention and was invented before the filing date of the original application, above-identified, for such invention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56,

(also check the following items, if desired)

and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and
 in compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)–(d))

NOTE: "The claim to priority need be in no special form and may be made by the attorney or agent if the foreign application is referred to in the oath or declaration as required by § 1.63. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) must be filed in the case of an interference (§ 1.630), when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner, when specifically required by the examiner, and in all other situations, before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by a petition requesting entry and by the fee set forth in § 1.17(i). If the certified copy is not in the English language, a translation need not be filed except in the case of interference; or when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner; or when specifically required by the examiner, in which event an English language translation must be filed together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate." 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(a)–(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

(d) no such applications have been filed.
(e) such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE
60 / 109,600	November 23, 1998
60 / 113,144	December 17, 1998
/	_____

**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER US/PCT APPLICATION(S)
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120**

The claim for the benefit of any such applications are set forth in the attached ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART (C-I-P) APPLICATION.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 4 of 7)

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

(list name and registration number)

JEFFREY D. MYERS, Reg. NO. 35,964

(check the following item, if applicable)

- I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
- Attached, as part of this declaration and power of attorney, is the authorization of the above-named practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

JEFFREY D. MYERS

Address

PEACOCK, MYERS & ADAMS

Post Office Box 26927

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
(Name and telephone number)

Switchboard: (505) 998-1500

Jeffrey D. Myers (505) 998-1502 direct line

Customer Number 005179

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name, as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

NOTE: Each inventor must be identified by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and by his/her residence, post office address and country of citizenship. 37 CFR § 1.63(a)(3).

NOTE: Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all the inventors. Section 1.63(a)(3) requires that a declaration/oath, *inter alia*, identify each inventor and prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of the executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,142, October 10, 1997.

Full name of sole or first inventor

KEVIN (GIVEN NAME)	(MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	TREIDER FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
-----------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship U.S.

Residence Albuquerque, New Mexico

Post Office Address 1100 Rhode Island, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Full name of second joint inventor, if any

JULIE (GIVEN NAME)	(MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	BORGES FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
-----------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship U.S.

Residence Las Vegas, Nevada

Post Office Address 1339 Finale Lane
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

(GIVEN NAME)	(MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
--------------	--------------------------	-----------------------

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship _____

Residence _____

Post Office Address _____

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 6 of 7)

*(check proper box(es) for any of the following added page(s)
that form a part of this declaration)*

Signature for fourth and subsequent joint inventors. Number of pages added _____

* * *

Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added _____

* * *

Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages added _____

* * *

Added page for **signature** by one joint inventor on behalf of deceased inventor(s) where legal representative cannot be appointed in time. (37 CFR 1.47)

* * *

Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (C-I-P) application.

Number of pages added _____

* * *

Authorization of practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

* * *

*(if no further pages form a part of this Declaration,
then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item)*

This declaration ends with this page.

PATENT APPLICATION

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 via EL368197729US on November 23, 1999, addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Stacy E. Jenkins

Stacy E. Jenkins, Legal Assistant

November 23, 1999

Date Signed

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	KEVIN TREIDER and JULIE BORGES	:
Serial No.:	UNKNOWN	Attorney Docket No.: 30288-US
Filed:	HEREWITH (November 23, 1999)	Anticipated Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN
For:	ELECTRONIC FACTORING	:

ASSOCIATE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Box: Patent Applications
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

JEFFREY D. MYERS, a principal attorney in the above-identified application for Letters Patent, hereby appoints:

Deborah A. Peacock, Reg. No. 31,649
Paul Adams, Reg. No. 21,096
Rod D. Baker, Reg. No. 35,434
Brian J. Pangrle, Reg. No. 42,973
Nancy E. Ownbey, Reg. No. 38,986;
Andrea L. Mays, Reg. No. 43,721
Stephen A. Slusher, Reg. No. 43,924; and
Joseph Barrera, Reg. No. 44,522

as associate attorneys with full power.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey D. Myers, Reg. No. 35,964
Direct line: (505) 998-1502

Date: November 23, 1999

Attorney for Applicant(s)
PEACOCK, MYERS & ADAMS, P.C.
P.O. Box 26927
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927
Telephone: (505) 998-1500
Facsimile No. (505) 243-2542
Customer No. 005179